

Three shot as SAS ambush IRA suspects

Armed men killed near bus bomb site

- Three IRA suspects were shot dead by soldiers yesterday after firing on a lorry driver in Omagh, Co Tyrone
- An investigation is under way after maps showing Army bases in Germany were dumped in a rubbish skip
- Witnesses said that the men, who were armed, were caught in an SAS ambush and 30 to 40 shots were fired
- Four mortar tubes and 25lb of Semtex explosive were discovered on a bus during a border check

By Paul Valley

Three suspected IRA terrorists were shot dead yesterday afternoon after they attacked a lorry near Omagh, Co Tyrone.

They came under fire from an SAS unit, apparently lying in wait after a tip-off, and died about eight miles from the spot where eight members of the 1st Battalion Light Infantry were killed 10 days ago.

First reports last night suggested that the SAS had mounted another of a series of operations to prevent IRA units from carrying out terrorist operations.

Next month a Gibraltar coroner's court will hear details of the controversial SAS operation there earlier this

year in which three IRA operatives died. Yesterday's Army action comes in the wake of calls for tougher action to curb an IRA offensive that began at the beginning of this month and has claimed a succession of servicemen's lives in Ulster, Britain and the Continent.

In the past few weeks there has been constant debate at Stormont Castle and in Whitehall about improving intelligence operations to forestall the IRA.

The operation yesterday was launched after the Army received a tip-off on IRA

plans. The security forces are known to be offering up to £100,000 for information on terrorist operations and activities.

The three men died in a hail of bullets after they fired on the driver of a lorry parked on the Drumnakilly road between Omagh and Carrickmore.

According to initial reports, the three were caught in an ambush laid by the SAS late yesterday afternoon. Local residents said they were known to be IRA supporters.

Witnesses said the three, who were armed, were shot in a car when security men fired between 30 and 40 rounds at them. Police arrived quickly, they said, indicating that they may have been informed in advance of the incident.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary last night confirmed that three people had been killed. Two rifles are understood to have been captured from the men.

Earlier in the day, an Ulster Unionist politician said official maps of British Army bases in West Germany had been found abandoned in a rubbish skip in Northern Ireland.

The incident was a serious breach of security in the province, Mr Gregory Campbell, a member of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and councillor on Derry City Council, said.

Mr Campbell said the maps, in German and in English, were officially categorized as "restricted" and showed garrison training areas in West Germany.

An Army spokesman said they were "not classified" but an investigation was under way to find how the maps came to be in the rubbish skip.

The news came as 25lb of Semtex explosive and four mortar tubes — of the type used in numerous serious incidents in the province in recent weeks — were discovered on a bus during a routine check at the border near Londonderry.

The Lough Swilly Company bus was stopped between Letterkenny in Co Donegal in the Republic and Londonderry. The explosives were found in a red holdall beneath one of the seats.

Police are working on the theory that it was placed there to be collected later by someone who was not a passenger.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Michael McAtamney, the Deputy Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was reported to have called for a change in extradition procedures after the debacle surrounding the handover of Robert Russell last weekend.

The present system tied up a disproportionate number of policemen in precautionary activities, he said.

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Moscow's flying giant thunders into Britain



A huge Antonov T24 transport plane spearheading the Soviet Union's "invasion" of Farnborough, Hampshire, yesterday for the air show. Report, page 18

Tebbit 'was minded to refuse' Clowes licence

By Lawrence Lever

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, then Mr Norman Tebbit, was "minded to serve notice of his intention to refuse a licence to Barlow Clowes," according to an official DTI letter, of which *The Times* has seen a copy.

The letter says Barlow Clowes "had for some time carried on the business of dealing in securities without a licence contrary to section 1 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958, and quotes the Bank of England view that "the partnership's present *modus operandi* breaches the provisions of section 1 of the Banking Act 1979".

However, the Government decided to allow the application for a licence to proceed because it was concerned that if it refused the group might collapse, causing its investors to lose their savings with Barlow Clowes, which then amounted to £80 million.

According to the letter, the DTI was concerned "that the interests of investors would best be served by avoiding any action which might lead to a collapse." The licence was eventually granted in October

1985, when Mr Leon Brittan replaced Mr Tebbit as Secretary of State.

The Barlow Clowes Investors' Group welcomed the news as important backing for its campaign for government compensation for investors.

The DTI would not comment on the document last night and Mr Tebbit was unavailable.

The decision to grant Barlow Clowes a licence was taken in the face of warnings about Barlow Clowes from

outside bodies as well as concern among civil servants within the Department and at the Bank of England.

Barlow Clowes was licensed to deal with the public in October 1985. But it collapsed in May this year.

The Times has seen a letter written by Mr Roger Louth, a DTI official, to Herbert Smith, the Barlow Clowes solicitor, on April 2, 1985.

Mr Louth says in the letter that Barlow Clowes had "for some time" carried on business without a licence and "was continuing to do so. The

Department cannot condone any such breach."

However, it has hitherto taken the view that the interests of investors would best be served by avoiding any action which might lead to a collapse," Mr Louth says.

"This attitude was adopted on the basis of assurances by the partnership (Barlow Clowes)." At one point Mr Louth writes that the Secretary of State is minded to refuse the application by Barlow Clowes for a licence unless satisfactory assurances are given.

"Accordingly, I am writing to tell you that in the absence of satisfactory assurances, the Secretary of State is minded to serve notice of his intention to refuse the partnership's application for a licence."

Mr Louth says: "I understand that they are of the view that the partnership's present *modus operandi* breaches the provisions of section 1 of the Banking Act 1979 and have written telling the partnership to cease their activities or to modify them in such a way that they no longer constitute breaches of that legislation."

Toxic cargo vessel is banned from entering Britain

By Nicholas Wood and Sheila Gunn

The West German freighter Karin B, carrying 2,000 tonnes of toxic waste, was condemned to resume its odyssey last night after the Government bowed to intense public pressure and banned it from entering Britain.

The decision, taken against a background of sharp criticism of ministers for allegedly dragging their feet over pollution laws, was conveyed to the Italian ambassador, Signor Boris Biancheri, by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment.

Signor Biancheri was called in by Mrs Bottomley for a 25-minute meeting in which he was told in no uncertain terms that disposal of the ship's cargo was a matter for the Italian authorities.

Mrs Bottomley said after the meeting: "In its present form, we don't know what the waste is. Therefore, there is no way Britain could deal with it. We did say most forcefully that we regarded this as eminently an Italian problem and for them to deal with."

"It was for the Italians to analyse the contents of this waste and to establish a port of call before it set sail."

"What really is the height of irresponsibility is to set it out onto the seas without having firmly established a location for it to reach," she said.

Signor Biancheri, who is to meet Mrs Bottomley again after consulting his government, said she had explained to him Britain's rules and regulations governing hazardous "special wastes".

Whitehall sources said he had argued that the waste "had to go somewhere". The Karin B has been at sea since last month when it picked up the waste.

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Portfolio —PLUS NEW— Accumulator

● There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator now stands at £182,000. Prices: page 23

INSIDE

Sir Helenus Milmo dies

Sir Helenus Milmo QC, former leading libel counsel, judge and the interrogator called in by MI5 to question Kim Philby at the height of the Burgess and Maclean scandal more than 30 years ago, died yesterday, aged 80, in a Sussex hospital. *Obituary*, page 12

Angola pullout

Angola and Cuban officers were on hand to monitor what was described as South Africa's total military pullout from southern Angola yesterday, a day early. *Page 6*

Shares slide

Share prices continued their fall, with investors still gloomy about base rates. The FT-SE 100 index fell 15.9 points. *Pages 19, 22*

Test success

England's miserable sequence of 18 Test matches without a win ended yesterday when Sri Lanka were beaten by seven wickets at Lord's. *Page 36*

Degree courses

Degree course vacancies in Law, Business Administration, Architecture, Creative Arts, Education, Agriculture and Mass Communications are published today. *Page 31*

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Turks help 150,000 to flee Iraq

By Hazhir Teimourian

Turkey yesterday officially opened its border with Iraq to Kurdish civilians fleeing from heavy fighting between the Iraqi army and autonomy-seeking Kurdish guerrillas. Estimates of refugees wanting to seek asylum in Turkey rose to 150,000.

Parliamentarians who had visited the border near Cukura were reported to have said at least 10,000 of the refugees had entered Turkey. On Monday, the mayor of the town of Hakkari said that 16,000 refugees were already being cared for in the district.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey, said in Ankara that the region faced "a serious human problem".

The Government would let women and children among the refugees enter the country. "We will also try not to split

Continued on page 18, col 3

Last-minute peace bids fail National 24-hour post strike today

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first national post strike in 17 years will start this morning when most of the 140,000 post workers are expected to back the Union of Communication Workers' call for a 24-hour stoppage over a bonus payment scheme.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the union's general secretary, last night ruled out a last-minute reprieve, firmly rejecting the Post Office's call for further

talks unless it agreed to "withdraw its precondition of flexible pay". He said the strike committee would meet tomorrow to consider further action if necessary.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director of Royal Mail Letters, accused the union of being "hell-bent on plunging the postal service into industrial action which would be

extremely damaging to millions of our customers."

The Post Office will hire temporary staff tomorrow to deal with delayed mail and they may have to sort more than a million letters.

Mr Cockburn said he believed any prolonged national action would be in breach of the workers' contracts. "If the union decides to embark on further selective or guerrilla action we would have to respond to it."

The dispute centres on the decision to pay new employees in the South-east and London, which has severe staff shortages, a special bonus of between £7.50 and £20 to help to retain post workers. More than 50 per cent of London's post workers leave every year.

However, the union believes the bonus could set one office against the other. Instead, it wants an increase in London weighting, now

£27.98 for inner London and £15.14 for outer London.

Mr Cockburn said: "This really is a cloud cuckoo land situation. The union is going to throw the nation's mail into chaos today because the Royal Mail wants to pay some of the

union's members extra money in difficult recruitment areas. What a daft dispute."

The Post Office says that postmen can now expect to earn £130 nationally, £145 in outer London and £157.50 inside the capital. With overtime and bonuses, the respective figures are £192.50, £202.50 and £242.50.

However, the key element to the dispute lies in the fact that the bonuses are only available to post workers who have worked for at least a year.

New recruits unable to earn bonuses or overtime are £20 to £50 worse off nationally. Even with the new supplements which the Post Office wants to introduce, management says London post workers would be £20 to £50 worse off than the rest of the workforce.

The union payment of the supplement is a first move towards imposing regional

paid its inmates, some of whom were believed to be political prisoners.

He said that the black market, which has flourished because of the lack of goods in state stores, was a positive development that showed the people's initiative in meeting their needs.

Within the past year, more consumer goods began making their way into Libya, especially after the colonel eased restrictions with neighbouring Tunisia.

About a year ago, Tripoli's souk near Green Square was virtually deserted, with the few goods for sale attracting few shoppers. Now at mid-morning the souk is elbow to elbow with Libyans buying clothes, tapes of such pop artists as Madonna and Sting, and jewellery.

Colonel Gadafi told the rally he envisaged a society "without government, police or army".

Continued on page 18, col 6

Is it CHEAPER today?

STAMPS

17/1/21

Gadafi condemns killing of his political critics

Tripoli (Reuters, AP) — Colonel Gadafi has accused his own Revolutionary Committees of murdering political opponents.

In a speech to committee members broadcast on television and radio, the Libyan leader, aged 44, said that some people had infiltrated the movement and "liquidated" political opponents.

"Terrorism, if it arises, must be terrorism of the masses and not individual or committee terrorism," he said.

Colonel Gadafi formed the committees in 1977 to defend and lead his revolution, a blend of populist socialism and Islam. They had sweeping security and intelligence functions, and thousands of youths enlisted in them.

In Monday night's speech, Colonel Gadafi ordered the committees to restrict their operations in future to

neighbourhood "People's Congresses" and indicated that their days were numbered. "We want the next phase to be one in which the masses themselves, not the Revolutionary Committees, confront the enemies," he said.

Diplomats said that public discontent had risen last year because of harassment by the committees, economic austerity, and an unpopular war with Chad, Libya's southern neighbour. Libya's General People's Congress (Parliament) passed a human rights charter in June guaranteeing freedom of expression and denouncing violence.

In what diplomats said was a move to shore up popular support, Colonel Gadafi in March bulldozed a prison and

freed its inmates, some of whom were believed to be political prisoners.

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Continued on page 18, col 6

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Sky staff oppose non-union plan

Television technicians at Sky Television, the satellite venture owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch, came out yesterday against the company's non-union plan.

The contingent of 30 members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television, and Allied Technicians decided to put forward new proposals to Mr Jim Styles, Sky's managing director.

It is understood the meeting came down strongly in favour of retaining a union with negotiating rights and there was a strong vote in favour of the proposals being forwarded to management.

Mr Styles disclosed the non-union plan over the weekend at the Edinburgh International Television Festival. The company has said that employees refusing to go along with the scheme will have to go.

Helicopter inquiry

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday began an investigation into an accident in which a woman walked into the whirling blade of a helicopter at a village fête. Miss Sarah Chapman, aged 23, sustained arm injuries when she was hit by a tail rotor in Uffington, Oxfordshire. Captain John Wood, the pilot of the helicopter, which had been on loan to the fête to give visitors rides, said Miss Chapman had surprised marshalls when she tried to walk behind the machine, despite warning shouts. There were "No Entry" signs and the area had been roped off.

Village owner secret

The village of Glympton in Oxfordshire has a new owner and lord of the manor, but the villagers do not know his identity. The Glympton Park Estate has been sold within weeks of coming on to the market at a price of about £11 million and the buyer has paid more than that, though less than the £15 million rumoured in the village to be the cost. Savills, the agents responsible for the sale, yesterday said that the new owner did not wish to be named. But they said the estate had not been bought by either a member of the Royal Family or the National Trust.

Christ film decision

Mrs Mary Whitehouse has abandoned plans to bring a private prosecution for blasphemous libel against *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the film by Martin Scorsese. She has received legal advice that a judge would be unlikely to give permission for a private prosecution if Mr Allan Green, the Director of Public Prosecutions, decides to take no action. Mr Green was said yesterday to be considering the case for a criminal prosecution, but a spokesman was unable to predict when he would make a decision.

'Shorter week' call

Leaders of more than a million engineering workers are launching a big campaign for a four-hour cut in their working week. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) will launch the campaign for a 35-hour week on September 12, 11 days before formally submitting its annual pay claim to the Engineering Employers' Federation. Mr Alec Ferry, CSEU general secretary, said: "The affiliated unions in the CSEU have pledged themselves to ensure that the campaign is effective and successful."

Welders still striking

Four hundred welders at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, stayed on strike yesterday as the remainder of 13,000 men reported for work at the end of their 12-week dispute. The strike is unofficial. The men, all members of the GMB union, are demanding extra payment for working in "hot and hazardous" conditions.

SLD calls for new TV policy

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

The appointment of BBC and Independent Broadcasting Authority governors should be taken out of government hands after Mrs Margaret Thatcher's repeated choice of political favourites, the Social and Liberal Democrats said yesterday.

A policy paper on the future of British television recommended that such appointments be made by a parliamentary select committee or a new broadcasting appointments commission.

"We regard the independence and fairness of the BBC and IBA as central to the maintenance of the quality and standards of domestic broadcasting in the UK."

"In the past the appointment of governors of the BBC and IBA has been, by and large, non-political. But under Mrs Thatcher we have seen these appointments becoming increasingly politicized."

"This trend threatens to undermine the independence and impartiality of both bodies, and consequently to undermine public confidence at home and abroad in the quality and fairness of the UK's broadcasting services as a whole", the document said.

The policy paper, to be discussed at next month's SLD conference, also said British television would be damaged beyond repair if the imminent broadcasting revolution led to a drop in standards.

UK seal population 'could be halved'

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

More than half the 25,000 common seals in British waters might die by the end of the year and thousands are likely to be washed up on beaches in the coming months, wildlife experts said yesterday.

The disease killing the seals, which Dutch researchers say is primarily due to the canine distemper virus (CDV), could spread like myxomatosis which killed millions of rabbits in the 1950s.

An emergency treatment centre for seals affected by the North Sea epidemic is to be set up in Norfolk after a meeting yesterday between the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Greenpeace, the environmental group.

Wildlife experts at the meeting said that between 50 and 80 per cent of seals in British waters might die.

Mr Colin Booty, RSPCA wildlife officer, said: "Things are likely to get very much worse before they get better."

Pay of Holloway strikers is stopped

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department yesterday stopped the pay of striking officers at Holloway jail in north London.

There was mounting anger among Conservative MPs at the disclosure that strikers were still being paid, even though they had broken an agreement to return to work, according to the Home Office.

After the disclosure, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, called on Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to intervene personally.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and chairman of the all-party Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "Until the Home Office has the courage to take control of the prison

system and remove the management from the Prison Officers' Association, this financial mismanagement of the public's money and interests will continue."

"This latest example is just one manifestation of a trade union managing a public service for its own interests."

Mr Wheeler, a former assistant prison governor, added: "Until the Home Office faces the reality that they have to take action, they will go on being manoeuvred by the POA in the way they have been now for nearly 25 years."

But Mr John Boddington, of the POA national executive, said: "It is time that the Conservative MPs get angry not with the prison officers at Holloway but with the man-

agement at Holloway which is not adhering to what officials with the Directorate of Personnel and Finance agreed with us."

Mr Boddington said that when staff reported for work at 7.15 am yesterday they were told: "Either you go into work or you won't be paid."

He added: "That would have meant them going back under the conditions that led to the dispute, rather than what had been negotiated in the past fortnight. So they stayed out."

The Home Office said: "The POA are in breach of an agreement made after national level talks two weeks ago to return to work under the governor's authority."

The association's national executive yesterday sought a

Overworked hospital to be rebuilt

Birmingham Children's Hospital, recently at the centre of controversy over the death of a young child, Matthew Collier, is to be rebuilt at a cost of £28 million.

However, West Midlands Regional Health Authority has denied claims that the present hospital will be closed and services dispersed until building work begins in 1995.

Matthew, aged four, died in February this year after his parents had tried desperately to bring forward the date of his

operation for a heart condition.

The operation was postponed from September 1987 to January 1988 because of a shortage of beds.

The hospital is to be rebuilt and replaced by a "modern, purpose-built hospital for children".

Sir James Ackers, chairman of the health authority said: "We propose to build it at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Medical Centre, where it will be directly associated with

medical teaching facilities.

"To suggest that there is a plan to scatter services far and wide is nonsense."

Meanwhile, the Government was urged yesterday to rename Premium Bonds "health bonds" and to launch a national lottery to provide extra funds for research and facilities in the National Health Service.

Basic funding for the NHS should be provided by a health tax and a levy should be imposed on the alcohol in-

dustry to pay for drink-related diseases, a Green Paper produced by the Social Democratic Party says.

The document also calls for the proportion of GDP spent on health care to increase from 5.9 to 7 per cent.

Dr David Owen, the leader of the SDP, estimated that health bonds could contribute between £200 million to £300 million annually for the next two years, while a lottery could raise £500 million, earmarked for research.

I won't handle a danger chemical cargo again, says Austrian captain
'Toxic' ship stays put awaiting orders

By Andrew Morgan

The captain of the West German freighter the Karin B, anchored 18 miles south-west of Plymouth with its cargo of toxic waste, yesterday told *The Times* that it would be the last time he handled such a cargo.

Captain Richard Hotinterleitner raised an arm in affable salute as the Karin B, with 2,000 tonnes of Italian toxic chemicals on board, was buzzed by inquisitive helicopters as it lay at anchor at its latest resting place, after being rejected by Spain and West Germany on leaving Nigeria with its cargo last June.

Speaking on the ship's radio about plans for his cargo, the captain said he was awaiting a telex from the

Italian government this morning telling him where to sail, but he had no inkling of the destination — only that it was unlikely to be a British port.

Captain Hotinterleitner said: "I am a simple mariner who has never been involved with this sort of controversy before. I have worked for several shipping companies and all I am doing is fulfilling the orders of the Italian government. I don't think I'll be handling toxic waste again."

Captain Hotinterleitner, from Kindberg, in Austria, a skipper for 18 years, said he could understand why Britain refused to handle his cargo and agreed that it would never be permitted in his own country. No

country has shown the slightest inclination to handle the waste and, as if he thought he could well be at sea forever, he replied: "I think that must be a little joke."

A Royal Navy vessel, believed to be a fisheries protection ship, yesterday stood about five miles off the Karin B to ensure that heavy shipping did not get too near.

Brixham coastguard also broadcast warnings throughout the day of the ship's location and its hazardous cargo.

There are 167 containers on board the Karin B holding the toxic waste in drums, some of which are said to have started leaking.

Across the mountainous waves yesterday afternoon, in winds re-

corded at force eight, some of the containers, marked boldly with the name of the Sicilian port of Messina, appeared to be stained, but Captain Hotinterleitner insisted that none was leaking.

However, he admitted he had no idea what chemicals were in the drums, their relative toxicity or the level of dangers they posed.

He said that doctors had examined his eight-strong crew both in Nigeria and Cadiz, where the ship had stopped in an unsuccessful attempt to unload, but no medical problems had been found.

Captain Hotinterleitner, courteous and affable, agreed that some drums had been leaking solvents when the 3,230 tonne Karin B had

arrived in Nigeria to be loaded. But he said the drums had been re-packed and the containers properly sealed.

He also denied reports that a Nigerian dock worker had died during the exercise.

The Karin B has been at sea for 28 days and the ship has only 12 days of supplies left.

After that, it will either have to dock for fuel and food or, more likely, have to request supplies to be sent out by barge.

Yesterday, as the winds gusted to force nine, Captain Hotinterleitner said that if there was a storm at his anchorage point he would go to the Bay of Biscay for safety while awaiting instructions.

Cancer-causing agents in cargo

By Peter Malligan

Highly corrosive liquids, substances posing a fire risk and about 250 tonnes of cancer-causing Polychlorinated Biphenyls are among the cargo of the Karin B, according to Friends of the Earth.

The environmental group carried out tests on the toxic waste in the village of Koko, Nigeria, while it lay dumped there earlier this year.

It says markings on the drums available for inspection suggested that the countries of origin might include Norway, West Germany and Italy.

The inspection, performed by scientists wearing protective suits and respirators, disclosed that about a third of the 10,000 drums were in poor condition and some were leaking.

In its report, Friends of the Earth Ltd says many of the drums were in an extremely poor condition, posing "considerable physical hazard".

The report says: "The drums are rusting quickly in the humid climate and many are ruptured or leaking. Certain drums are bulging under the positive pressures which are probably caused by volatile liquid exerting a high vapour pressure..."

Others had been "recycled", with markings showing their original contents, but with little or no indication of their present contents. The consignments in Koko, part of which now forms the cargo of the Karin B, contained some of the most difficult and intrac-



A crewman, with the message 'Look don't touch' on his T-shirt, on the Karin B yesterday.

table wastes produced by industry in the developed nations, the report says.

In particular, there was evidence of a wide range of organic wastes which had been shown to be inappropriate for land-based technologies, such

as landfill. However, Mr Edward Wilkinson, group services director of Leigh Interests Ltd, of the West Midlands, said his company had offered to inspect the cargo after being approached by an Italian company.

"We are daily dealing with all sorts of chemical accidents and spillages, in factories and on the roads, and this is no different. We would deal with it in a proper way with proper back-up from a government consultant analyst", he said.

Waste disposers defend their art

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's booming waste disposal industry yesterday described claims that the country was becoming the dustbin of Europe as "nonsense".

Mr Hugh Wilson, administrative director of the National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors, said: "To talk about us being the dustbin of Europe seems to assume that dustbins are undesirable. They are essential. You cannot get along without them."

With government backing for an industry regarded as profitable and legitimate, Britain's imports of waste increased from 5,000 tonnes in 1985 to 183,000 tonnes last year. Almost a third of imports are classified as special and pose serious disposal problems.

Although much of the rapid growth in Britain's imports of waste can be attributed to the relative abundance and cheapness of "holes in the ground" — landfill sites — there is growing expertise in more specialized technologies such as high-temperature incineration and polymerization.

Re-Chem International and Cleanaway Ltd, which operate incinerators at Pontypool, south Wales, Fawley, near Southampton, and Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, lead the incineration business.

Plans exist for a new generation of larger incinerators, but

these will not come on stream until the early 1990s. The rise in imports has meanwhile put existing incinerators, already under attack from environmentalists, under increasing strain.

With domestic demand for incineration last year running at about 60,000 tonnes, according to the Government's pollution inspectorate, there was an estimated shortfall of 7,000 tonnes in incinerator capacity.

Burning hazardous chemicals like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which formed much of the dumped Nigerian waste aboard the Karin B, can also produce toxic fumes and residues of dioxin, the deadly substance involved in the Seveso tragedy in 1976.

Re-Chem closed one incinerator, at Bonnybridge in Scotland, after environmental criticism. Its plant at Pontypool has come under attack for allegedly causing deaths and deformities in farm animals. The claims have been discounted by the Welsh Office.

Plans for a new incinerator with a 30,000-tonne capacity have also been announced by Ocean Trading and Transport.

Through its Cory Waste Management subsidiary, in Thurrock, Essex, Ocean Trading operates a process that polymerizes and renders inert intractable wastes.

Kinnock 'trying to do too much'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A leading member of the Shadow Cabinet today accused Mr Neil Kinnock of pushing too hard and attempting to do everything himself.

Mr John Prescott, who is challenging Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership of the party, says the Labour leader has become too intense and has lost his sense of humour.

Being leader of the Labour Party is the worst job in the world and Mr Kinnock is under phenomenal stress, Mr Prescott says.

"He knows that there are people trying to pull him down, so that means sometimes he tries to take his fences a little too fast, which has got him into trouble. Sometimes his enthusiasm to win means he pushes too hard."

Mr Prescott, who is shadow energy spokesman, offers ad-

vice to Mr Kinnock whose rating in the latest opinion poll is the worst since he became leader. "He needs to use his humour. He used to have it, but he's lost it."

"He's becoming too intense, he needs to get his old self across and to remember that he can't do everything", Mr Prescott says in an interview in *Woman's Own* magazine.

Mr Prescott admits that he respects the Prime Minister, that Labour has lost the ideological battle to the Conservatives and that some voters are frightened by party policies.

"It is not something I like to admit publicly, but Thatcher forces change and that must surely be what any politician is trying to achieve."

"As an impetus for change in what is largely a conservative country, she's produced more change than anyone since Attlee, and he only succeeded because it was after the war."

He accuses the planners of Labour's general election campaign of becoming too concerned with sloganizing.

"We have lost the ideological battle to the Tories", Mr Prescott says. "Thatcher has an ideological goal and it has undermined us. We have come to fear ours. There are generations of voters who only see Labour as a party of opposition. They hear some of our policies and it frightens them."

Mr Prescott, leader has "too little humour".



Mr Prescott, leader has "too little humour".

New body to fight air delays

Travellers caught up in long airport delays have a new group to champion: the cause, The Sufferers Campaign to Resolve the European Aviation Mess, or SCREAM.

It has been formed by the Air Transport Users Committee (AUC) and the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Associations (IFAPA) and will try to ensure the views and needs of air passengers are taken into account in future planning.

Mr John Cox, AUC chairman, said yesterday: "No longer can we simply listen to

FLIGHTCHECK



recriminations, accept the enormity of the problem or agree the small steps to free Europe's rigidly controlled system should be retracted while we stoically suffer."

Mr Geoffrey Lipman, IFAPA executive director, said: "The problems of congestion are beyond the capacity of any single nation to resolve. We want a European Community-led master plan to develop aviation infrastructure over the next decade."

Travellers had few delays at United Kingdom airports yesterday.

Aberdeen: An Air UK flight from Amsterdam and a British Airways flight from Gatwick and Manchester arrived 25 minutes late.

Birmingham: A Dan Air flight from Mahon arrived at 8.25pm on Monday, six hours late. Cardiff: An Air Europe flight from Isma arrived two hours late.

Gatwick: An Air Zimbabwe flight to Harare scheduled to leave at 4.40pm on Monday finally left yesterday morning after a delay of more than 17 hours after mechanical problems. A British Island flight to Corfu left four hours late, and a Dan Air flight to Mahon was delayed several hours.

London: Officials reported no delays of more than half an hour on both incoming and outgoing flights.

Stansted: An Air Transat flight from Vancouver was delayed for three hours.

Olympic screen deal agreed

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

BBC and independent television have agreed not to show next month's Olympic Games at the same time during peak viewing hours in the evenings.

BBC 1 will begin its programme at 7pm, continuing until 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when *EastEnders*, the most popular programme on any channel, will begin.

The BBC's programme *The Olympics Today* will run until 8.30pm or 9pm on other weekdays.

Both sides are claiming victory after the negotiations. BBC will be spending at most £5.5 million on covering the Games, about £1.5 million less than independent television and Channel 4.

Mr Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Television Sport and Events, said yesterday that he had originally asked for a

budget of more than £6 million but the figure was reduced after six internal meetings.

The cuts mean the BBC will not have a van at the stadium, and has lost a roving camera team.

Mr Martin is still confident the BBC will get better ratings than its rivals.

Independent television has had exclusive coverage of domestic athletics for four years, but Mr Martin claims when both channels covered the same meetings abroad "ratings have been 3.45 or even 4-4.1 in our favour".

BBC and independent television together have paid about £1 million towards the European Broadcasting Union's rights to screen the Games. NBC paid £220 million for exclusive US rights.

Cleveland cash to help child abuse families start again

By Peter Davenport

Families caught up in the child sexual abuse crisis in Cleveland last year were yesterday offered an unprecedented package of financial assistance to help to rebuild their lives.

Mr Bruce Stevenson, chief executive of Cleveland County Council, said yesterday: "It is a novel idea and the object is to create a new beginning with the families and get out of the endless cycle of conflict." Among assistance the council will consider giving families will be the payment of removal costs for those wanting to move house, help in changing schools, and the provision of holidays.

The council made the offer as a gesture of reconciliation and an attempt to forge a new understanding and improve strained relationships. Officials expect that in some cases the financial aid to individual families will come to several thousands of pounds.

Mr Stevenson said that discussions with any families which came forward would be conducted with "common sense and goodwill". The scheme was disclosed yesterday as the council's policy and finance committee considered the wide-ranging recommendations of the special child abuse working party set up in the wake of the Butler-Sloss report.

Yesterday the council ap-

pealed to about fifty families caught up in the crisis to contact a special team headed by Mr David Ashton, secretary of the council, and explain their requirements.

He would meet the families at a location of their choosing and, if they felt unable to talk directly with the authority, he would deal with any organization or representative of their choice.

The cases will then be considered by a council sub-committee which said it was prepared to commit time, money and support to try to meet individual circumstances.

Council officials said that the scheme was not intended as compensation for the ordeal suffered by families, both those in which sexual abuse had been proved and those in which the allegations were subsequently found to be false.

Mr Stevenson said the offer of help was being made independently of any legal proceedings for damages being undertaken by families. Although the council believed its offer was a better way of rebuilding relationships, it would not try to dissuade any parents from legal action.

Mr Stevenson said: "It is going to take a long time and a lot of goodwill on both sides. What we are trying to do is create a climate where these things are possible, we don't

see the advantage in trying to continue to fight these matters in the courts.

"We are not trying to compensate people for the past but to help them in the future. If families feel they must go through the courts we will respect it. What is done is done and we regret some things very much indeed. But we want to get into a better environment and help the families who have been injured."

The detailed recommendations of the child abuse working party, which are expected to cost several hundred thousand pounds to implement, are now to be considered by the appropriate committees.

However, the fate of key individuals named in the Butler-Sloss report, including Mr Michael Bishop, the director of social services, and Mr Christopher Payne, the chief constable, will be decided later in the year by the committees responsible for their employment.

The moves by the council were welcomed yesterday by one of the parents caught up in the crisis last year. The man, who is a member of the organization Parents Against Injustice (PAI), said: "The assistance to move home and change school will be welcomed by many of the families. Some have already taken matters into their own hands and moved house."

Heath's farewell to an old friend



Mr Edward Heath saying goodbye to Ching-Chia, Mao Tse-tung's panda, at London Zoo yesterday. Ching-Chia, Mao Tse-tung's panda, and his late mate Ching-Ching to Mr Heath, then Prime Minister, in 1974 when Britain resumed diplomatic relations with China. The panda, now 16, travels to Mexico tomorrow to meet his new mate, Tohui, a mere six. (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

Esperanto makes the grade in GCSE exams

By Our Education Staff

The GCSE examination may be under attack from all sides but at least one group believes it is an unqualified success.

The British Esperanto Teachers Association said yesterday it was delighted with the results of the first GCSE Esperanto examination in which more than 63 percent of candidates scored A grades. Mr Geoff Hammerton, the

association's spokesman, said the results demonstrated that Esperanto was worthy of study.

All 60 candidates who took the Northern Examining Association paper achieved graded results, with 77 per cent gaining grades A to C.

Inquiries by the chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE into claims that an unnamed examination board had rigged results to ensure that the examination

appeared to be a success were delayed yesterday because some examination board offices do not reopen after the Bank holiday until today.

The Curriculum Council, set up by the Government to oversee the introduction of a national curriculum in state schools, was told yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, that it must produce detailed plans by the end of this month.

Disabled man's killers sought

Police are hunting killers who tortured a disabled man in his own home with a knife and his crutch and left him tied up to die.

Marcus Law, aged 26, who was confined to a wheelchair after a road accident some years ago, is thought to have let his attackers into his home in Denman Road, Wath-on-Dearne, Rotherham.

Det Supt Keith Smith, who is leading the search with 100 officers, said: "We are talking about a disabled person who cannot defend himself. It was a brutal and sadistic killing."

"We have not established a motive at the moment. He was a person who was well liked. He was very well-known about the estate in his wheelchair and was often pushed by his friends."

"We do not know his movements between Saturday night and Monday morning when his body was found by a relative alerted by a local warden who saw his curtains closed."

Mr Law moved into his home a few months ago after winning a battle with the local council to be moved from his first-floor flat in the same street.

Scotland Yard detectives hunting for the killer of Christopher Wandless, a student who was shot in the back in south London, are trying to trace a young man seen fleeing from the scene.

The man was seen running up East Hill in Wandsworth, minutes after Mr Wandless, aged 20, was fatally wounded by two shots from a sawn-off shotgun.

Yesterday forensic scientists began examining pellets recovered after the shooting. The gunman was careful not to eject the cartridges.

Mr Wandless was attacked early on Monday as he walked to his sister's home, following the route of a late-night bus.

Sisters attack abuse decision

Three sisters who were sexually abused as children insisted on being named yesterday in protest at a court's decision not to jail their uncle.

William Gordon, aged 63, escaped with an admonishment at Glasgow Sheriff Court after being found guilty at an earlier hearing of numerous indecency offences against his nieces.

The sisters, who are now adults, wept at the sentence and insisted that their names be published.

The eldest, Mrs Mary Campbell, aged 25, who later collapsed outside the court,

said her marriage had broken down because of the abuse.

"It's an absolute scandal that this monster should be free to walk the streets after what he did to us," she said.

Gordon, of Kingsheath Avenue, Rutherglen, Strathclyde, was found guilty of six charges including several indecency offences against Mrs Campbell and her sisters, Miss Cathy Divers, aged 24, and Miss Janet Divers, aged 18.

The offences were committed over a 16-year period starting in 1970. They began on the youngest girl's sixth birthday and continued into their teens.

The matter came to light only when Mrs Campbell broke down while discussing her marriage with a social worker. Police discovered that the other sisters had also been abused and Gordon was arrested.

Sheriff Francis Keane yesterday deferred sentence for six months after hearing Gordon had suffered a stroke.

The sheriff said that because of Gordon's physical condition imprisonment would be an excessive sentence and a fine would not meet the gravity of the offences which had done "untold harm".

Notting Hill Carnival

Police claim safety success

By Edward Gorman

The Notting Hill Carnival was one of the safest yet with crime well down on previous years, according to police figures released yesterday.

The police said the success of the two-day event was due largely to the introduction of sealed-off roads, or "sterile zones", in the heart of the carnival area, comprehensive video surveillance of an agreed carnival route and an earlier close on both nights.

Only 100 victims of crime were recorded, compared with 634 last year, an 85 per cent drop and the lowest in the 23-year history of the carnival.

Mr Paul Condon, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who was in charge of the multi-million pound police operation involving up to 10,000 officers, said this year's carnival had shown the event could be safe and trouble-free.

He said: "I hope the carnival community will build on this year's success. Public safety issues must remain at the forefront of all the planning, and in future more attention must be paid to more effective stewarding."

The police said there had been 212 arrests during the two days, which was 18 per cent more than last year. However, the number of crimes reported, 193, was 73 per cent down. There were 21 casualties, of which six were described as serious.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said: "Everyone in the community and the police who were involved in its planning and who took part

in carnival must be delighted that this year saw a return of the true spirit of carnival."

"A lot of credit for this is due to the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Police to ensure public safety and frustrate the small minority who come to Notting Hill for crime, not carnival."

There was some concern that the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee (CAC), had raised thousands of pounds by selling licences to street traders without the authority of the relevant local councils.

The CAC said it sold between 300 and 400 licences for between £55 and £95. CAC leaders said they had gone ahead with the licensing after

the breakdown of negotiations with local councils.

The police said they believed the CAC did not have the right to levy money on council streets. Mrs Pamela Batty, vice-chairman of Westminster council's environment committee, said she wanted to know why the money had not been made available to offset street-cleaning costs.

Mr John Thompson, aged 22, a security guard hired by the BBC to protect camera crews at the carnival, has been bailed to appear before Marylebone, central London, magistrates next Tuesday charged with the possession of a CS gas canister and two charges of possessing offensive weapons.

Official drinks probe after holiday brawls

After Bank holiday brawls on licensed premises, the Government has launched a group, led by Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House of Commons, to ask interested bodies for their views on alcohol abuse.

The drinks industry, magistrates, social workers and the TUC are among those to be canvassed on how the problem can best be tackled.

Bank holiday disturbances included a fight among 100 people in a Portsmouth public house and a brawl involving two off-duty policemen in Norwich.

Police interviewed 13 security guards in Portsmouth

yesterday after a pitched battle with knives, snooker cues, pick axe handles and sticks was fought among 100 people at The Beacon public house.

The guards had apparently been brought in on Monday night to protect staff after the police had been called to the building two days before. Eight people were treated in hospital and 17 were arrested as 50 police officers quelled the fighting.

One witness said a fire-extinguisher was set off in his face and he was struck on the head during the fight which left the public house devastated.

London's all-day road jam

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The roads of central London are as clogged up with traffic in the middle of the day as they are at rush hours, according to an analysis published yesterday.

The study, by the Department of Transport, shows that average speed is 11.5mph in the morning peak, and falls marginally to 11mph during day-time off-peak hours, as well as in the evening rush hour. The report says that "The low average traffic speed in the central area and its uniformity between 7am and 7pm is evidence that the central area roads may be used to capacity for most of the working day."

It suggests that the slow

speeds outside the rush hours may not be the result of the amount of moving traffic, but that parking may reduce the capacity of the roads in the middle of the day.

It shows that daytime off-peak speeds for London as a whole have been virtually unchanged, at 20.9mph in 1986, compared with 21.3mph in 1968.

Those statistics reinforce the warning given by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, that London was in danger of grinding to a halt within a decade unless something was done.

The figures were released just as Milan, in Italy, was introducing severe restrictions

on vehicles seeking to enter its commercial centre during working hours.

Cars are banned from doing so unless the driver holds a permit.

The London Planning Advisory Council, which represents all London boroughs on planning matters, said it was pressing the Department of Transport to review methods of restraining traffic.

The council put forward options for limiting traffic in central areas earlier this year. One was that a fee, possibly £5 a day, could be levied.

London Traffic Monitoring Report for 1987. Stationery Office, £12.

Milan traffic, page 7

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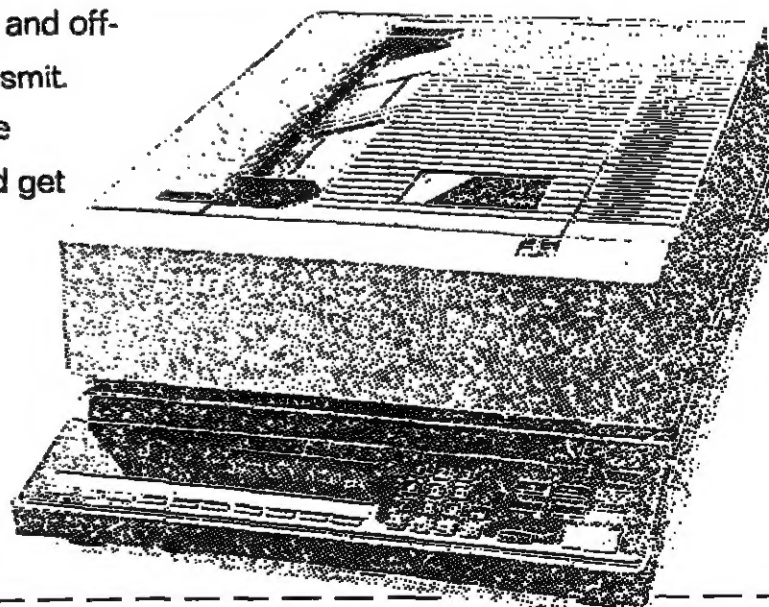
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TUC launches its biggest campaign yet on work safety

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

Thousands of British employees are facing increasing threats to their health because safety standards in workplaces are declining rapidly, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said yesterday.

His statement came as the TUC launched its biggest drive yet against deaths, injuries and sickness at work to combat the rising accident rate in the agricultural, construction and manufacturing sectors.

"Disasters such as Bradford City football ground, Zebruge, King's Cross and Piper Alpha show the tragic cost of failure to ensure safety," Mr Willis said. "But smaller, avoidable, tragedies keep on occurring every day with sickening and predictable regularity."

The TUC believes a decline in safety standards has been caused by reducing the number of health and safety inspectors, while progress based on existing legislation is being hampered by cuts in government resources to the Health and Safety Executive.

More than 700 people were killed at work last year, and

178,000 injuries were notified to health and safety authorities. Many work-related deaths are not reportable, and in many areas the TUC believes there is a chronic under-reporting of injuries.

In addition, the TUC says hundreds of thousands of workers are exposed to serious hazards causing long-term health damage - work-related cancer alone is estimated to account for 6,000 to 7,000 deaths a year.

The TUC, which will publish a million copies of its guide on health and safety, entitled *Hazards at Work*, will run its campaign throughout next year, with the aim of intensifying action by trade unionists who serve as workplace safety representatives and serve on safety committees.

Trade unionists are being urged to make regular inspections of workplaces, investigate accidents, ensure full consultation by employees on issues such as workplace changes and use their right to attend TUC or union-approved training courses.

The TUC is also seeking the full implementation of new

laws covering noise, hazardous substances, asbestos and other dangers.

It wants the Health and Safety Executive's information and advisory services expanded and would like to see more visits by inspectors to workplaces.

Mr Willis wants to see increased publicity about offenders and believes the average fine of £500 last year was woefully small.

The TUC report calls for the executive to be expanded and a 25 per cent pruning of its staff since 1979 reversed.

Instead of waiting for accidents or health disasters to happen before taking action, the report says hazards should be tackled at the design stage with full information about risks and precautions being provided to workers and trade union representatives.

Mr Willis said: "Workers have a right not to be killed and a right not to be maimed. No one should ever forget the sense of anger, frustration and despair that follows a futile accident or a case of industrial disease that could so easily have been prevented by taking simple precautions."

Tent with the right connections



A familiar striped tent used by British Telecom engineers sitting inconspicuously on sands on the isolated Dee estuary, Lancashire, as Mr Roger Rathbone repairs a telephone cable damaged when a yacht dragged its sea anchor. The cable connects Lillibie Island, several miles out in the estuary, where a bird sanctuary is

maintained by a resident warden. Treacherous tides which sweep swiftly through the estuary have claimed several lives. Mr Rathbone and his partner, Mr Peter Hadwyn, both of Liverpool, make the journey in a specially adapted Land Rover and work to a strict time limit before the sea returns. Within a few

hours, the area where he is working will be covered by deep water. Mr Rathbone said: "It's all in a day's work. We were born near here so we know the island and the tides and the problem areas in the sand very well. Mind you, we never take any risks and we keep a close weather eye on the clock."

Firearms amnesty in wake of massacre

By Peter Evans

A two-stage campaign to tighten gun control after the Hungerford massacre begins tomorrow with a month-long firearms amnesty.

The last amnesty, in 1968, led to the public surrendering more than 25,000 weapons and nearly 800,000 rounds of ammunition.

The second stage of the campaign will be a government scheme to compensate owners of weapons to be prohibited under firearms legislation before Parliament. A "buy-in" scheme will operate for three months after legislation takes effect.

Under the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, individuals would not be allowed to hold certain weapons previously authorized by a certificate. The weapons would have lost most or all of their market value. They include self-loading rifles, burst-fire weapons, and rapid-fire, short-barrel shotguns.

The main option would be a payment of £150 for self-loading rifles expected to form the majority of eligible weapons. A second option, for owners of all banned weapons, would be a payment of 50 per cent of the average retail value of the firearm in the summer of 1987.

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30	£33,470	£66,976	£100,437	£167,414	
35	£23,809	£47,632	£72,472	£122,554	
40	£15,482	£31,336	£47,002	£78,790	
45	£9,334	£18,671	£28,258	£47,318	
50	£5,183	£10,582	£15,871	£26,815	
55	£2,411	£5,010	£7,609	£12,807	

The figures opposite show how much existing investors are receiving from Norwich Union. Simply find the nearest age to your own down the left hand column, then read across from left to right and you'll see the appropriate figures for a monthly investment of £10, £20, £30 and £50. Of course, you can invest more. Your Personal Illustration will indicate the sum you could expect to receive on retirement. The figures illustrated are based upon actual payouts as at 1.7.88 for an Endowment with-profits policy for male ages at outset, and paying equivalent monthly premiums as shown, with a retirement age of 65. In most cases, females would have received more. The values shown have been achieved over a period of high inflation and high investment returns. The past is not necessarily a guide to the future. CASH SECURITY PLAN is based on Norwich Union's with-profits Endowment policy.

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30	£3,660	£7,834	£12,004	£20,349	
35	£2,976	£6,370	£9,761	£16,547	
40	£2,363	£5,058	£7,750	£13,137	
45	£1,838	£3,934	£6,028	£10,218	
50	£1,361	£2,913	£4,464	£7,566	
55	£913	£1,954	£2,995	£5,076	

It's easy to see how much your estate would receive if you died before the age of 65. Once again, simply find the nearest age to your own in the left hand column and read across. If you'd like a more accurate illustration, fill in the Request opposite and return it to us, or if you want further information, call the FREE Hotline on 0800 515100. The life cover shown assumes that we are able to accept you at ordinary rates. Life insurance policies are intended as long-term arrangements. So during the very early years, your cash-in value may be less than the total premiums paid, and income tax may be payable on any gain.

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Please tick: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated

Date of Birth: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____

Occupation (please describe fully): _____

Please tick "YES" OR "NO" to these questions and sign and date the declaration.

1. Do you engage in any hazardous activity or occupation (e.g. aviation, working at heights, climbing, diving, motor sports, etc)? ☐ YES ☐ NO

2. Have you ever had a serious illness or operation or are you now receiving any treatment, or expecting any medical consultation, operation, treatment, blood or other tests or investigations as an in-patient or out-patient at any hospital or clinic or have you done so within the last five years? ☐ YES ☐ NO

3. Have you had, or been advised to have, any counselling or investigation in connection with AIDS or any other sexually transmitted disease? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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Census office set to be 'hived off'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A memorandum to the Prime Minister has revealed that the office which values business property for taxes and rating, customs and excise duty collection and the social survey division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys are among the next areas of the Civil Service to be hived off from Whitehall.

The private memorandum to Mrs Margaret Thatcher from Mr Peter Kemp, the permanent secretary in charge of implementing the plan to decentralize executive work has recommended these areas in addition to the 29 elements of Civil Service activity already identified.

They form part of 37 further blocks of work to be considered for treatment as "agencies" to be headed by chief executives and administered outside normal lines of responsibility. Mr Kemp also lists the agencies which have been agreed. One, the Vehicle Inspectorate which monitors MOT testing, was announced earlier this month.

According to a report to the

Prime Minister last year from Sir Robin Ibbes, her efficiency adviser, the plan ought to reduce costs and make the Civil Service more efficient.

Mr Kemp tells the Prime Minister in the memorandum that agency status may be a forerunner of privatization. The argument is that once Civil Servants have become accustomed to working with commercial-style accounting procedures, selling the operations to the private sector will be easier.

Reaction to the leaked memorandum from Civil Service unions yesterday was mixed.

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants said yesterday its members were in favour of increased efficiency, as long as a recent pay agreement with the Treasury providing for more flexible arrangements within a common structure of salaries was maintained.

The Council of Civil Service Unions said yesterday that it was demanding to see a copy of the leaked memorandum.

Parents are cautioned over cosmetic surgery

By Patrick O'Hanlon

Parents of children waiting for cosmetic surgery were warned by senior surgeons yesterday to consider the risks.

The warning comes after the death of Simon Boot, aged 12, whose parents agreed to cosmetic surgery to have his ears pinned back - an operation performed on more than 100 children each year. He died after suffering an adverse reaction to the anaesthetic.

Dr Maurice Burrows, president-elect of the Association of Anaesthetists, said: "Prominent ears are the most common cosmetic surgery operation among children."

"With healthy young people the risks are usually low, but no operation is absolutely

without risk." Anaesthesia is administered according to a child's weight, not age.

"With this sort of operation the anaesthetist is a little way from the airways," Dr Burrows explained. "The child has a tube put into his lungs, which is not difficult or uncommon. But all these things carry a risk."

Mr Ian Todd, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said: "With cosmetic surgery you have to weigh up whether the risk is worth taking for the benefit you achieve."

Children can almost always receive cosmetic surgery on the health service, including treatment for unsightly birthmarks and scars.

Britain's model space programme takes off

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Britain's official space programme may be in the doldrums, but a small band of enthusiasts is determined to see a scaled-down version take off.

The British Space Modelling Association has persuaded the Government's Explosives Inspectorate - after several years of campaigning - that miniature, solid-fuel rocket engines built in the US should be allowed into the UK.

The engines, costing as little as £4, but capable of projecting small rockets hundreds of feet into the air, are now becoming available in model shops.

Mr Paul Clark, a founder of the association and lecturer in design history at Brighton Polytechnic, said that the hobby has for many years inspired young people in the US and the Eastern bloc to take up aerospace careers. However, UK authorities had been less than enthusiastic.

"In this country, you've only got to say rocket and bureaucrats think of V-2s," Mr Clark said.

Model rocketry nearly suffered the same fate as the full-sized space programme when British companies failed to express an interest in making the engines. Estes, an American company, has had its model engines approved for use in Britain.

In spite of the lifting of restrictions, Mr Clark emphasizes that model rocketry is not for the foolhardy and required a responsible attitude to safety.

Association members are already launching detailed replicas of famous rockets, including the V-2 - all made from card, wood and plastic. Metal parts are not allowed. They all descend gracefully below parachutes or streamers which slow the fall to Earth.

"The principles are easy to grasp, but there are many interesting tweaks," Mr Clark said.

"There's something about fire and smoke that's fundamentally appealing."

More firms offer health cover and cars as perks

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Private medical insurance is now one of the most widely available "perks" for employees, and company cars are becoming easier to obtain for managers as status symbols, according to a study of benefits provided for workers at all levels.

A survey of 317 companies and organizations covering the industrial, service and financial sectors has found that 89 per cent of them pay at least some of the costs of private medical insurance for some employees, compared with 83 per cent in 1987 and 74 per cent in 1980.

Mr Richard Bednarek, of Hay Management Consultants, which carried out the survey, said the provision of pensions and assistance with lunch payments are more widespread perks for employees, but medical insurance was now high on the list of benefits of more companies than ever.

However, fewer than a quarter of the firms questioned said they provided medical insurance for their manual workers. The survey showed that 89 per cent provided it for senior management staff, 54 per cent for professional, technical and supervisory staff, 35 per cent for clerical staff, and 22 per cent for manual workers.

The companies reported that on average, the income level for managers to be given a car on the basis of "status" as opposed to job requirements was £19,857 in non-financial companies and £21,591 in financial companies. Last year, managers receiving company cars on that basis were generally earning £20,625 and £21,940 in those two sectors respectively.

The authors of the survey say the level of eligibility has significantly fallen for the first time since 1980. But they say it is still true that when measured in terms of job size, cars are awarded at more relatively junior managerial positions in financial organizations, particularly banks, than in non-financial organizations.

Since the survey was carried

out, the taxable benefits of a company car have been doubled, so that the manager whose marginal rate of income tax was 40 per cent last year pays twice as much this year. Hay Management says it is still too early to predict the impact that the tax changes might have on further extensions of company car entitlements to more junior managers.

After changes in personal pension legislation came into force in April, the survey found that 74 per cent of the companies questioned said they encouraged all employees to join their company scheme.

Only one of the organizations surveyed said it had a policy of encouraging employees to make their own arrangements. Seventeen per cent of companies had not yet decided their policy.

The survey showed that growth in executive share option schemes was continuing, with 41 per cent of organizations operating them, compared with 36 per cent last year.

Last night the Institute of Directors said the value of owning a company car had been eroded in the last Budget and next year could well see a reversal in company policy.

Mr Andrew Hutchinson, the institute's principle research executive, said the IOD preferred higher salaries that enabled senior managers and executives to spend as they wished.

"Over the years, reductions in taxes have generally been swallowed up by the erosion of concessions enjoyed by company car owners. However, a great deal of prestige and status is attached to a company car, but it is certainly less valuable than it was."

Mr Hutchinson said the increased provision of private medical insurance showed that companies were reading the way the mind of the Government was working.

Hay Survey of Employee Benefits (Hay Management Consultants Ltd, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1; £625 for each of two volumes).

Trauma conference

Doctors urged to form hostage team

An international squad of psychological "trouble-shooters" should be set up to cope with hostage or kidnapping crises, a conference was told yesterday.

Dr John Potter, a leading hostage expert, told the first European Conference on Traumatic Stress that the increasing number of hostage situations made such a squad essential.

Dr Potter, a post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of Psychology at Plymouth Polytechnic, said that the increase in hostage incidents appeared to be due to a "copycat" effect.

He added that was most recently true in prison riots, where roof-stripping and damaging property had been supplemented by taking hostages, usually prison warders.

"Expenditure on hostage-taking is likely to increase due to media amplification", he told the conference in Lincoln.

Dr Potter cited the TWA airliner hijack of 1985 as a classic example of media coverage working to hostage takers' advantage.

When hostages were gradually released from a large group, "the public relations effect very much acts in favour of the hostage-takers, who increasingly are seen as showing feelings of compassion".

Call for research on 'second-hand stress'

Emotional trauma from disasters, wars and accidents can affect large numbers of people not directly involved, a leading psychologist told the conference.

Professor Charles Figley, head of family therapy and psychology at Purdue University, Indiana, said secondary victims, in many cases the friends or relatives of emotionally scarred survivors, were often neglected by counsellors.

In extreme cases, entire communities could be adversely affected — such as Hungerford after the Michael Ryan massacre — or whole countries.

"When the space shuttle disaster happened in the United States, it traumatized millions of people, particularly children who had heard about the young teacher who was on board", Professor

Figley said. He asked the 130 conference delegates to carry out more research in the field of second-hand suffering.

The Ministry of Defence was accused yesterday of a scandalous lack of concern for the mental health of Falklands veterans.

Mr Roderick Ormer, a psychologist with the North Lincolnshire Health Authority, said the ministry obstructed a three-year project to measure stress among ex-servicemen.

The study showed Falklands veterans to be suffering the same "traumatic stress" reactions as American veterans of the Vietnamese War, losing sleep, suffering emotional problems and feeling guilt.

Mr Ormer said the ministry agreed initially to help with his study, but insisted on vetting his work.

Scottish oyster farm is a pearl of success

By Kerry Gill

The old cry of "Wha' o' caller oysters" (who will have fresh oysters) could soon return to the streets of Edinburgh after 200 years if Mr Andrew Lane and Mr John Noble have their way.

The two men, who run Loch Fyne Oysters, were preparing yesterday for the oyster-eating season which traditionally begins tomorrow. In spite of the availability of oysters virtually all year round, September heralds an annual upsurge in their consumption.

One hundred years ago the British ate 1,200 million oysters a year, 50,000 tons were consumed in Edinburgh in 1869 alone, and Dr Johnson used to feed them to his cat.

However, the British eat no more than six million a year, an amount Mr Noble reckons he could produce himself within five years in the pollution-free waters at the head of Loch Fyne in Argyll.

Mr Noble, owner of the Ardninglas estate, and Mr Lane, a marine fish farmer, set up their venture 10 years ago when oysters were regarded as the province of the privileged few. Five years ago they sold about 100,000, but this year they expect to sell a million of the gigas variety.

"The coastline of Argyll has enormous potential, particularly as the water is unpolluted", Mr Noble said. The absence of pollution means that oysters can be sold direct from the loch and that



Mr Nigel Sharples, an oyster collector, sitting about his daily work at the pollution-free breeding grounds of Loch Fyne (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

they retain their flavour.

Mr Noble and Mr Lane have recently opened an oyster bar and shop on the far shore of Loch Fyne, which is now selling about 3,000 oysters a week — unthinkable just a few years ago.

The gigas variety can be

sold all year round, as opposed

to the native edulis type, which must lie untouched from May 14 to August 4, its spawning period, and will be in short supply again this year.

Mr Christopher Kerrison, director of the Colchester Oyster Company, said prices

for the edulis would be 6 per

cent higher than last year.

"The company has to distribute lobsters, crabs and other shellfish because there are not sufficient native oysters surviving", he said.

There are no native oysters to be had from Whitstable

nowadays, and at Helford, the

Duchy of Cornwall Oyster Farm has, in common with

other producers, been hard hit by the *bonanilla* parasite.

Some natives are still produced on the Solent; others are

imported from Ireland. Five thousand had to leave

Ireland a day early this year for the start of the season in

London because of the threatened postal strike.

Prices for the season in

London are not set yet, but it

is unlikely that any edulis

oysters will be obtainable for

less than £1.20 each.

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Civil war risk as Burma Army waits in wings

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

Foreign diplomats and residents in Rangoon as well as western intelligence sources last night reported persistent rumours that General Saw Maung, Burma's army chief and Defence Minister, is about to try to take over the country, an action which almost certainly would cause a civil war.

Rumours of the plans are said to be more widespread than similar ones previously and because of the turmoil across Burma many people are prepared to accept them.

Military disquiet was increased by the formation on Monday of a new political party, the League for Democracy and Peace, in defiance of the law which permits the

existence only of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme party.

Leaders of the new opposition group met yesterday to consider their next moves.

Although there is no news of significant military activities, reports that the Army will move against the popular uprising today have come from as far afield as the United States and Australia.

The hand of General Ne Win, who surrendered the leadership last month after 26 years, is seen in any possible coup.

"It could be his final attempt to stop the destruction of his one party state and 'Burma's way to socialism'," said a Western diplomat. Other diplomats said that any army move might be delayed

until national chaos became even more critical.

Nobody doubts that the military chief, General Saw Maung, is still answerable to General Ne Win. He is regarded as a henchman also of U Sein Lwin, who succeeded General Ne Win but held the leadership for only 17 days.

Despite the massive build-up of hostility to the Government and the nine-days general strike which has paralyzed most of Burma the Army has kept silent about its intentions. The Government has said and done nothing about getting the people working and the country back to some normality.

President Maung Maung's voice is heard every day on the state radio, but his words are not new.

Recordings of his statement last week are broadcast over again. He is heard speaking about the proposed referendum which will ask people to vote "Yes" or "No" for a return to multi-party democracy.

A special congress of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme party to discuss the referendum is planned for September 12, but the meeting could not be held at present as nationwide disruption of transport would prevent party delegates from getting to it. It is known that leaders are in constant session to discuss the crisis.

Although little news has filtered out it is believed that the Army, which has 170,000 men, is divided over what it should do. Hardliners

demanding tough action to put down the disturbances are thought to be in the majority, but there are a good many other officers wanting to support the former military chief, U Tin, who has emerged as the key figure in the chief opposition group, the League for Democracy and Peace.

"His role is crucial in any caretaker government that might be formed to lead Burma back to democracy," said one diplomat. He is generally regarded as the best equipped in terms of capability and reputation of all the opposition leaders.

Aged 64, he was army chief and Defence Minister and third in the ruling hierarchy when he was abruptly dismissed in 1976. Soon

afterwards he was put on trial and convicted of involvement in a plot against General Ne Win's regime.

He was sentenced to seven years' hard labour, but he was released before the full term, after four years. Since then he has kept a low profile while maintaining close links with the family of the former Burmese statesman, U Thant. The family both inside Burma and abroad have been in the forefront of opposition to General Ne Win.

Despite his official positions U Tin was never seen as one of the military officers responsible for the disastrous policies of the past quarter of a century. Many officers in the Army regard him as a hero because of his record as a battalion commander in the 1950s.

Polisario agrees to end its war with Morocco

By Susan MacDonald

In separate talks in Geneva with Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, both Morocco and the Polisario Front yesterday accepted a United Nations peace plan to settle their conflict in the Western Sahara.

Under the plan, both sides accept a ceasefire, which Senior Pérez de Cuellar hopes will come into force before the end of the year, and a referendum to determine the future of the former Spanish colony, which has been administered by Morocco since 1975.

Both sides agreed with UN recommendations on those entitled to vote in the referendum and on the wording to be used: "Do you wish to be independent or integrated into Morocco?"

However, Mr Bechir Moustapha Sayed, the Front's second-in-command and leader of its delegation, made it clear after his meeting with Senior Pérez de Cuellar that to ensure a free and fair referendum two fundamental issues remained to be resolved.

The Front wanted the Moroccan army to be evacuated from the Western Sahara, he said, and it wanted the Moroccan administration there to be replaced by one from the UN.

Although agreement might be reached on an international replacement administration — already hinted at by Senior Pérez de Cuellar and King Hassan of Morocco — it is the role of the 150,000-strong Moroccan force in the territory that provides the greatest stumbling block.

It at present means 1,400 miles of rubble defence walls against continuous Polisario Front attacks. To withdraw these forces completely — even allowing for the small military presence which the Polisario would allow — would open the Western Sahara's frontiers to the Polisario fighters the walls were designed to keep out.

Instead it has been suggested that the Moroccan forces should be withdrawn to their local barracks.

Officially Morocco refuses to talk directly to the Polisario Front, but it is known that the two sides met discreetly a month ago and could do so again in view of the difficulties still to be overcome.

The Namibia peace plan

Cubans keep their distance as South Africans withdraw

From Michael Hornsby, Rundu, northern Namibia

South African troops and armour rumbled southwards over a pontoon bridge laid across the grey and sluggish waters of the Okavango river in bush country near here yesterday, completing one day ahead of schedule what army officers said was a "total military pull-out" from southern Angola.

Angolan and Cuban army officers, who sit with the South Africans on a joint military monitoring commission set up to supervise the ceasefire, were on hand to witness the last South African units cross the river, which here forms the border between southern Angola and northern Namibia.

Briefing reporters in a camouflaged riverside tent, Lieutenant-General Ian Gleeson, second-in-command of the South African Defence Force, said that about 1,000 men had been involved in the withdrawal. He claimed that the number of troops inside Angola had never been more than 3,000.

General Gleeson also disclosed for the first time that, in return for South Africa's withdrawal from southern Angola, the 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola had agreed to keep between 30 and 120 miles to the north of the Namibian border.

This southern limit on Cuban deployment is at its

farthest from the Namibian border in the south-eastern part of Angola, and in effect implies an undertaking by the Cubans not to take advantage of South Africa's withdrawal to attack the rear bases of the Angolan rebels of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

Last year South Africa mounted a big operation in Angola in support of Unita. General Gleeson said that with the SADF now out of Angola, it was obvious that "we are no longer in a position to give (Unita) any significant assistance". He said that Unita must be "a major factor" in any settlement.

Colonel Archie Moore, Pretoria's permanent representative on the commission, accompanied by his Angolan and Cuban counterparts, Major Osvaldo van Dunem and Colonel Jesús Falcón, led a large party of journalists across the bridge to Angola.

"We have given our word that all South African troops came out this morning. Our fellow-members of the commission must trust us," Colonel Moore declared.

Colonel Falcón seemed uncertain of the worth of a South African's word. "We cannot affirm that they are withdrawing," he said carefully in Spanish through an interpreter. "We hope no South Africans are left on this side." His Angolan colleague was

more optimistic. "We think that in a short while we will obtain peace," Major van Dunem said.

As Colonel Moore and his party crossed back to Namibia, South African Army engineers were already busy with crowbars and hammers, dismantling the bridge. There is much scepticism, however, that the South Africans, who have been operating inside southern Angola almost continuously since 1975, have now left for good.

Many of the lorries and armoured infantry carriers rolling back into Namibia yesterday were daubed in white paint with defiant graffiti. "No surrender", "Thumbs up for South Africa" and "The Boers will do it again".

On the Namibian side of the river, they passed under a banner proclaiming: "Welcome home, winners."

The South African withdrawal, which began on August 10, is the first in a sequence of steps planned to culminate in independence for Namibia, the former German colony which Pretoria has ruled since the First World War.

CAPE TOWN: Fourteen Swapo insurgents were shot dead by security forces in northern Namibia last week, the South West Africa Territory Force said in Windhoek.

Gun guard for bishop's Beirut mission



An armed British Embassy guard escorting the Right Rev John Brown, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, after his meeting with top Muslim leaders in west Beirut yesterday as part of the latest efforts to win the release of three British hostages in Lebanon.

Escorted throughout by armed bodyguards, the bishop crossed from Christian east Beirut to the Muslim west accompanied by the British Ambassador, Mr Allan Ramsay (Reuters reports).

Diplomatic sources said Bishop Brown saw Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, the top Shia official, and Sheikh Hassan Khaled, Mafai of the Sunni Muslims.

The bishop, who is representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, arrived in Beirut on Sunday and said he was optimistic about an imminent release of the three Britons.

Asked yesterday whether he expected the release of Mr Terry Waite, Bishop Brown told a television news agency: "I

have no idea about that. I have no knowledge on the release of Waite."

Bomb blast: A car bomb exploded in the Syrian-controlled town of Chataura in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley yesterday, wounding at least five people, police said.

They said the Volvo, laden with explosives, blew up at 12.55 pm local time in front of a bank in the crowded central area. Ambulances and civil defence volunteers went to the scene to evacuate casualties.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Moscow accused over bombers

Washington (Reuters) — The US State Department yesterday accused the Soviet Union of breaching the Geneva peace accords on Afghanistan by sending bombers from Soviet territory to attack targets near the city of Kunduz.

It said: "It is clear that Soviet bombers have been involved. In our view, this is a violation of the Geneva accords."

The State Department spokeswoman, Phyllis Oakley, told a press conference that there were reports that fighting between Afghan insurgents and Government troops around Kunduz, in northern Afghanistan, was continuing and that the city was under aerial bombardment.

The Afghan troops have been reinforced by members of the Soviet forces who have yet to be withdrawn from Afghanistan. Ms Oakley said: "Some, but not all (the bombers), have come from airfields within the Soviet Union. In our view, this is a violation. We will raise it with the appropriate body." She was referring to the United Nations observer group set up to monitor the Geneva accords.

Soviet Katyn shrine

Moscow — An official Polish delegation is to lay wreaths today at a memorial being built by the Soviet Union to mark the Katyn massacre on September 17, 1939, of 15,000 Polish officer prisoners, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday.

The ceremony appears to indicate that Moscow is prepared to acknowledge responsibility for the massacre near Smolensk. But Mr Gerasimov said "there's no answer yet" on the Soviet role in the killings, because a Soviet/Polish commission on the problem has not yet completed its work.

SPD 'on way back'

Münster — In the year of its 125th anniversary, West Germany's Social Democratic Party feels itself on the way back to the power it lost six years ago (Tony Catterall writes).

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party chairman, told the party congress the Government was in a desolate situation. Not only "the packaging is bad — no, the goods themselves are rotten. The entire political production process and management are no good". That had helped in the SPD's polls showing, at 43 per cent they are three points ahead of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union.

Israel lifts curfews

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Israeli Defence Force yesterday lifted West Bank curfews imposed on Thursday on 10,000 people in Nablus, Tulkarm and three Palestinian refugee camps, while Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a general strike in support of deported Arab activists.

"It's not rule that we do this," a spokesman said. "There is no connection between the general strike and the curfews. They were imposed after riots and are being lifted because the area is quiet now." The curfew on Bani Naim village, near Hebron, was maintained.

TV debates planned

Washington — Aides to Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis began critical negotiations yesterday on nationally televised debates in the presidential race (Christopher Thomas writes). The Democrats want at least three debates between the candidates, and at least one between Senator Lloyd Bentsen, their vice-presidential contender, and Senator Dan Quayle, his Republican rival.

The Bush camp is not interested in debates before September 20, prompting an accusation that the Vice-President was trying to duck out of the confrontations.

Millions homeless in wake of rapid monsoon flooding

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Rahima Khatoun draped the body of her four-year-old daughter in a rag and sent it floating on a bamboo raft yesterday as monsoon floods ravaging northern and central Bangladesh left no dry patch of land for burial in her village, Shibabala, 35 miles west of Dhaka.

Mrs Khatoun's village is one of the 20,000 submerged by a continuous surge of water.

Official figures released yesterday said about 20 million people, almost a fifth of the country's population, had been displaced by the floods in 31 districts. There is knee-deep water in nearly 35 towns.

The unofficial death toll in the floods over the past 12 days exceeded 300 as newspapers reported 70 more deaths due to drowning, snake bites and intestinal diseases.

The Government said more than half a million homes had been destroyed and thousands of families were camping out on embankments and elevated railway tracks, reviving memories of the 1987 deluge

which swept through the country killing 20,55 people and was the worst in 70 years.

Mr Paul Crowe, deputy director of the Irish charity Concern in Bangladesh, said: "Not all the country is affected as badly as last year, but the water is rising much more rapidly this time."

He said yesterday that hundreds of families were living on roofs in Zinzira township outside Dhaka where Concern runs a community project.

"We have moved 230 families to a school in the village of Bhagantek (five miles north of Dhaka) but they must be evacuated because the school is now under water," he said. "If water continues to rise at the present rate the outlook is bleak."

His worries are shared by Agriculture Ministry officials who have estimated that rice crops on two million acres have been destroyed raising the spectre of shortages over an annual deficit of two million tons.

"We have an emergency recovery plan on hand, but when a major harvest gets

spoilt things can get rough," a senior official said.

President Ershad called the situation alarming. He has sent troops to help civilian volunteers on mechanized boats and canoes to rescue people marooned in isolated villages.

General Ershad yesterday warned off opposition demands for declaring the affected zones of the country as disaster areas, and assured the nation that about 1.5 million tonnes of foodgrains were in government warehouses.

As he spoke large swathes of water continued to keep at least 15 northern and north-eastern districts isolated from the rest of the country with more than 14,000 miles of highways damaged and over 500 culverts broken down.

Delhi (AFP) — Monsoon floods have killed more than 800 people across India, and are now spreading to fresh areas in three states.

Soldiers in Assam have evacuated some 15,000 people from their flooded homes in Guwahati city, the former state capital, to safe ground.

Burns specialists in effort to save the air show victims

From John England, Ludwigshafen

Doctors at a special burns and plastic surgery unit here were trying yesterday to save 10 critically injured victims of the Ramstein air show disaster who were being showered with blazing fuel from a crashing aircraft.

Four other people who suffered serious burns at the US air base on Sunday died overnight, bringing the official death toll to 47. Another 344 of the injured were yesterday still in a total of 21 hospitals. Many were also reported to be in a critical condition.

Professor Rolf Zellner, chief surgeon at the burns unit, is treating 27 Ramstein patients. "They have varying degrees of burns everywhere," he said. "But many of them were hit in the face and hands, which will bear permanent scars."

His 10 critically injured patients include two girls, aged six and 11. He said: "Because the worst-burned patients are young, I give them a chance of surviving. But I would not put that better than 50-50 at present."

The professor — who studied in London, and treated

Austrian racing driver Nikki Lauda after his fiery crash in 1976 — said: "Some of the patients are still in a semi-shocked state and, fortunately for most of them, don't yet realize what has happened to them. They are also being given mild tranquilisers. A staff psychologist is also making

regular rounds, talking to those patients who can converse a little. The two girls cannot speak because they are on ventilators."

Plans for King Juan Carlos of Spain to watch aerobatics displays at Zaragoza air base on September 17 by teams including the Freccia Tricolori unit involved in the Ramstein disaster are being reconsidered. The Danish Air Force was suspended yesterday from taking part in air displays attended by spectators.

ing regular rounds, talking to those patients who can converse a little. The two girls cannot speak because they are on ventilators."

Prof Zellner added: "There are bound to be psychological problems with many of the patients later on. The real tragedy of what has happened to their lives will take months to sink in. We can reconstruct

faces and hands, and surgically do an excellent job. But the triumph of plastic surgery is not 100 per cent.

"Some of our former patients have come to us, shown us photographs of themselves before being burned, and cried 'that is not me!'. It is sad, but true, that they have also suffered a loss of identity."

At the municipal hospital in Kaiserslautern, near Ramstein, Professor Werner Overbeck, the chief surgeon, was still treating about 30 patients out of more than 100 admitted on Sunday. One was a Briton named as Mark Sand of Chichester, Sussex, who has been discharged.

Frau Gabi Schellhammer, a leading member of the Kaiserslautern Greens party, said she expected many local inhabitants to attend a vigil at the town hall to protest against military air shows and low-level training flights.

An official memorial service originally planned for tomorrow, was yesterday postponed until Saturday because of problems in identifying the victims.

Famine hits refugees from south Sudan conflict

From Catherine Bennett, Khartoum

Reports that hundreds of displaced southerners are dying weekly in south Kordofan yesterday had little impact in the Sudanese Parliament, which embarked instead on a placid debate on the handling of Khartoum's flood relief.

Even the Information Minister, Mr Abdullah Muhammad Ahmed, said he was unaware of the "details" about the fatalities, which have been estimated in one area at 280 a week. He did not agree that any aid should therefore be diverted to the south from Khartoum, where on Monday night relief agencies were already beginning to question how long food aid should be distributed, with a further 20,000 tonnes of food already on its way.

"There are a large number who can be dying here," the minister said. "They need food and they need care."

Aid agencies working in the

towns of Babanussa, Al Muglad and Meiram, in a corridor which runs from the southern Sudan province of Dahr el-Ghazal up to Khartoum, are alarmed that although food is available from Western donors there have been scarcely any trains running in the last two months to transport it to towns swollen by thousands of refugees from the south.

Mr Ahmed blames the delays to trains which should run weekly on the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, fighting a guerrilla war in southern Sudan. "The other party attacks civilian trains and trucks," he said. "Even in the north they attack." Last year they attacked a train from Babanussa to Wau.

Relief workers might reply that the state of the displaced southerners merits a different attitude. A spokesman for Médecins sans Frontières, the

British relief agencies are planning to redirect funds raised during Sudan's floods to help tens of thousands of refugees fleeing from fighting in the south and who are now on the brink of starvation (Nicholas Beeston writes). The famine is worse in some areas than the Ethiopian famine of 1985.

Relief workers said yesterday that food was urgently needed Kordofan and Darfur provinces, home to up to 100,000 refugees. Some of the \$4.14 million raised for the Sudanese Emergency Appeal will be sent to aid agencies already established in the region. Food air drops were also being considered.

French group, said that the mortality rate, estimated at 1 per cent in the last report coming from Meiram, was unmatched in its experience. In percentage terms by day or by week, these figures exceed any MSF has ever collated anywhere in the world. Before that the highest previously known were those in Korea in Ethiopia, in 1984 and '85," the spokesman said.

Relief workers were first alerted to the rising number of starving displaced people arriving in south Kordofan in May, when a survey conducted

by Action Internationale Contre la Faim discovered a dire situation among southerners who had left their homes around war-torn towns such as Wau and Aweil, and started walking to Meiram hoping to join the railway line to Khartoum.

When they found no trains were running some walked on to Al Muglad and Babanussa to pick up a truck or train. In June around 4,000 were en-camped around Meiram where conditions were described as catastrophic, while Abyei, another focus for the dis-

placed, was said to be "horrendous". Médecins Sans Frontières sent out a team and discovered that the flow of southerners was still increasing despite the rains. "Women and children were arriving completely naked," said a relief worker. "I have never seen a population so weak, quite evidently the remains of those who had not died along the way. I remember one family who arrived and sat down and died."

Many of the Dinka men had already fled to Ethiopia in the spring, fearing that if they moved north through Sudan they would be targets for the Army and Arab militias.

By August 4, when the latest report reached Khartoum from French workers in Meiram, the town's displaced population had reached 26,000 and between 35 and 40 were said to be dying each day.

Last week Mr Aengus Fianca, director of the Irish

charity Concern, visited the town of Babanussa and Muglad where around 4,500 refugees have settled, having walked a further five days along the railway line.

"We saw people arriving in Muglad in a totally exhausted condition having walked from Abyei," he said. "They had no food and they spoke of perhaps a hundred a day dying in Abyei."

Even when they arrived the people were subject to disease and he saw one family lose three children to measles in two days, and another child eight days later.

Although relief workers had expected the rains to interrupt the procession moving north and had laid in stocks for the rainy season, the displaced families continued their journeys in unforeseen numbers and the figures of the displaced in Muglad has risen from 70 in June to 2,000 now in the camp, with seven or eight now dying each day.

Unrest in East Europe

Warsaw prepared at last to arrange talks with Walesa

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

Solidarity, the East bloc's first independent trade union, celebrates its eighth anniversary today amid signs that the Polish Government is finally prepared to hold talks with Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed union.

Since the imposition of martial law the authorities have pretended that Solidarity did not exist. But yesterday the government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, mentioned Mr Walesa by name and said that "round table talks" could include him.

The offer of talks was made last Friday by General Czeslaw Kiszczak, with the authorities anxious to end the two weeks of strikes in the country but wary — until yesterday — of involving Solidarity.

The strikers are demanding pay rises and legalization of Solidarity, which was banned in 1981.

"Mr Walesa can sit down at the round table. It is not important for us where someone comes from but what their present position is," Mr Urban said, adding: "If Mr Walesa stops his strike in the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, the round table talks will be convened automatically." But

it remained uncertain what form such talks would take and who the principal participants would be.

It was also uncertain whether Mr Walesa would be prepared to stop the strikes which have brought the birthplace of Solidarity to a halt.

But some union activists see the Government's about-turn over Mr Walesa as a ruse to end the strikes at the Lenin Shipyard, the Manifest Lipowscy colliery in Silesia, and by port workers at the north-west town of Szczecin, without granting any real long-term concessions.

Moreover, Mr Urban's emphasis that anyone respecting the Constitution would be able to take part in the talks was seen as a reminder of government charges that illegal Solidarity is not compatible with the Constitution.

Late on Monday Mr Walesa reiterated his view that, though he welcomed the idea of talks without preconditions, he would not take part in any discussions which did not "involve the problem of Solidarity".

The Government, by its latest statement, has shown that it is reluctant to use force

to break the strikes. But for his part, Mr Walesa may be tempted to lead his strikers out of the Lenin yard today, on the anniversary of Solidarity's founding Gdansk agreement, confident that he has won a big government concession.

While General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, and his ministers hope Mr Walesa will seize the opportunity of today's symbolic anniversary, there are many in Solidarity who will counsel caution.

So far the Government, though vaguely talking about the need for "consensus" and a "constructive opposition", is offering no guarantees that it is prepared to allow any significant trade union pluralism to develop in Poland.

But if the talks defuse the strikes while at the same time drawing the sting from Mr Walesa's bargaining position, the Solidarity leader will have thrown away an important tactical advantage.

The ball is now firmly in the opposition's court, and the people of Poland will be anxiously awaiting today's news from Gdansk.

Letters, page 11

Pinochet likely as junta nominee for President



President Pinochet, who is expected to be chosen by the military junta as sole presidential candidate in the October plebiscite, making a public appearance in Santiago, Chile's capital.

Rush to sign up for Chile vote

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Chileans in their thousands crowded into voter-registration offices at the last minute yesterday as the four-man military junta met to choose the candidate it will put forward for President in the plebiscite early in October.

Despite the lack of alternatives (the junta's appointee will be the sole candidate), record numbers of Chileans have registered to vote, urged on by a united front of opposition political parties.

By yesterday, 7.3 million of a potential 8.2 million voters had signed, and observers believe the total could reach 7.5 million by the time the polls close tomorrow.

For the past year, opposition and pro-government forces alike have assumed that the four-man junta will nominate the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Augusto Pinochet, who attended the junta meeting on behalf of the Army.

General Pinochet, who has always presented himself as a reluctant participant in the 1973 coup which ended a century of Chilean democracy, has successfully applied military principles to the political arena, consolidating his position first as "temporary" president of the junta, immediately after the coup, and later as the virtually permanent President of Chile.

He is already Chile's longest-serving President and may

rule until 1997 if he wins the plebiscite.

Since the beginning of this year, Chilean opposition parties have been campaigning for the rejection of the junta's candidate.

In the light of recent polls conducted by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Señor Manuel Antonio Garretón, a sociologist, on Monday predicted that General Pinochet will lose the plebiscite by at least 10 points.

A special poll commissioned by *Andrés Bello*, the opposition magazine, indicated that 18.8 per cent of voters would support and 44.9 per cent would oppose General Pinochet.

Most polls, however, indicate that there are still many undecided voters. In the *Andrés Bello* poll, when the "undecided" were asked if they really did not know how they would vote, more than half said they had decided but did not wish to comment.

Polling results by three other research groups indicated as many as two-thirds of Santiago voters would vote against General Pinochet's continued presidency, but opposition leaders have long warned that the plebiscite result might not reflect the wishes of the voters.

Of those polled by *Andrés Bello*, 44 per cent believed there would be electoral fraud, versus 34.8 per cent who thought the plebiscite would be fair.

Countdown to 1992

Europe sees tit-for-tat on trade

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Commission would use the promise of access to its 320 million consumers to bargain for reciprocal concessions from trading partners after 1992.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the European Commissioner for External Relations, said yesterday.

Mr de Clercq made one of his most aggressive statements to date on the nature of the Community's relations with its main trading partners at a conference in the mountain resort of Alpbach, Austria.

He said that, for example, the Commission was dismantling all barriers to trade in financial services between its 12 components.

The move is expected to save the financial services sector an estimated £14.3 billion and to open up big opportunities for European companies providing banking, consumer credit, insurance, and other financial services throughout the Community.

But access to the European market would be restricted to only those non-European financial service companies whose home countries grant similar privileges in their own domestic markets to European

companies, the Commission said.

"Our view is that Community credit institutions should have equal access to the financial markets of non-European countries. The Commission will check on a case by case basis whether similar institutions from all member states are given the same treatment in the non-Community country concerned. If not, the authorization procedure will be suspended until we have ensured reciprocity," he said.

But the Commission's attempt to obtain reciprocal treatment in the financial

services sector have already drawn heavy fire from United States authorities, who say European financial institutions cannot be given access to the American continental market without a complete overhaul of US interstate banking law.

The US Administration has been insisting that the principle of "home country control", whereby foreign companies are governed by the same laws regulating domestic companies, is a more appropriate way of regulating foreign activities.

Many observers fear that the rigorous implementation

of reciprocity is likely to invite retaliation in the form of a new wave of Transatlantic trade wars, which could cast a shadow over the future of London, the world's leading centre of international finance and investment.

Mr de Clercq said that the completion of the internal market would also entail the abolition of national import quotas towards third countries, principally from the Far East, the Soviet Union and East Europe, and their replacement with Community-wide quotas as part of the creation of the EEC's common commercial policy.

But he tried to allay fears that this would lead to the formation of a giant industrial version of the common agricultural policy, which critics have already warned could result in the creation of a "Fortress Europe" and undermine the current round of trade liberalization talks being conducted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr de Clercq said that protection generally would fall, but he would not rule out higher levels — if only temporarily — for cars and textiles.

Plea for observer status

Brussels — East European trade union and human rights organizations have issued an unprecedented appeal to the European Parliament in Strasbourg (Michael Dynes writes).

The appeal was made during a four-day conference on human rights in the Polish city of Krakow, held at the height of the country's latest round of Labour unrest, in an attempt to increase ties between the two estranged halves of Europe. More than 1,000 union and human rights activists from Eastern Europe attended.

The appeal coincides with independent moves by the EEC and the Soviet-led trading organization, Comecon, to increase bilateral trade across the Iron Curtain, after the signing in Luxembourg two months ago of a declaration of mutual recognition.

Estonian nationalists given sharp warning by Pravda

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Pravda yesterday issued a stern warning to a new political movement in Estonia with a strongly nationalist tinge, saying that "demagogues" were trying to undermine the Gorbachev reforms and push for an end communism in the once independent state.

In a first reaction to the growing influence of the Popular Front and its successful battle for Estonia to be economically independent of Moscow as of next year, the *Pravda* recognized the movement was a political force which could not be ignored. But it criticized the Estonian Communist Party for its inactivity in the republic, which had left a political vacuum for the Popular Front and other unofficial groups to fill.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev has encouraged unofficial movements in support of perestroika, or restructuring, but the Estonian phenomenon is threatening to get out of control, with the republic ultimately demanding separation from the Soviet Union.

Discussing the emergence of the Popular Front in recent months, *Pravda* says the "picture is not as idyllic as it first

appears. Demagogues of all kinds are coming out, and people who, behind words like glasnost (openness) and perestroika, conceal a poison of hatred for all that is socialist."

"They have taken it upon themselves to make pronouncements on every question of the republic's economic, social and political life." The Popular Front's platform, adopted on October 1 and 2 at the movement's founding congress, was published in *Pravda* earlier this month.

It calls for economic, political and cultural sovereignty for the republic, which was an independent state until 1940, when Moscow annexed the three Baltic states after the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

The front, which has Communist Party members among its 50,000 supporters, maintains that Estonia should remain federated in the Soviet Union, but many Estonian intellectuals desire full independence.

Pravda said that overcoming the "crisis of confidence" between grassroots communists and the republic's leadership would "not be so easy". It also expressed concern

about the simmering ethnic tensions caused by the Estonian-led Popular Front, which is also campaigning for Estonian citizenship and for Estonian to become the republic's official language. Russians and other ethnic groups make up 40 per cent of the republic's 1.5 million people.

The paper said that problems had been compounded because of the silence in the republic's Russian-language press about the Popular Front, which on June 17 held a public meeting which was attended by 150,000 people.

The aggressive tone of the *Pravda* article was similar to that adopted by the paper at the beginning of the Armenian crisis, when nationalist Armenians campaigning for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan to Armenia were also attacked.

That did not prevent demonstrations in the two neighbouring republics.

In this case, the *Pravda* reaction comes months after the Popular Front and its ideas have become firmly entrenched in Estonia, and could be too late to have any dampening effect on Estonians' nationalist ambitions.

Yugoslavia's time of trial

Fear of an autumn flare-up

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

Yugoslavia is bracing itself for a turbulent autumn of flagging production and wages, soaring inflation and ethnic tension.

Mr Stefan Kosec, the secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Party's Praesidium, has told a meeting of regional officials that the country is heading for a general strike.

Ethnic friction and growing nationalism, especially in the troubled Kosovo region — where Serbian minority protest marches against the majority ethnic Albanians are becoming more belligerent — represented "a latent danger of explosion".

Inflation is nearing 200 per cent. Production, instead of rising by a planned 2 per cent, has fallen by almost as much. Business losses have multiplied, while the real value of wages has fallen by 8 per cent.

One high-ranking Yugoslav politician said recently that the country was perhaps facing its most difficult trial since

the Second World War. The wave of strikes provoked by the Federal Government's austerity programme, launched in early spring, brought thousands of workers to Belgrade to protest, some demanding higher pay and dismissal of politicians.

The summer holidays have brought a temporary lull to the troubled industrial and business fronts, but as the austerity programme is about to take effect, the Government is expecting increased social tension and pressures aimed at extracting concessions.

But Belgrade has warned that it will not yield. If the reforms are stopped because of social repercussions, they are bound to put the Yugoslav federal system, with its distinctive regionalism and relatively liberal economic approach, in jeopardy.

The constitutional changes which should take effect later this year are inflaming ethnic differences and suspicions.

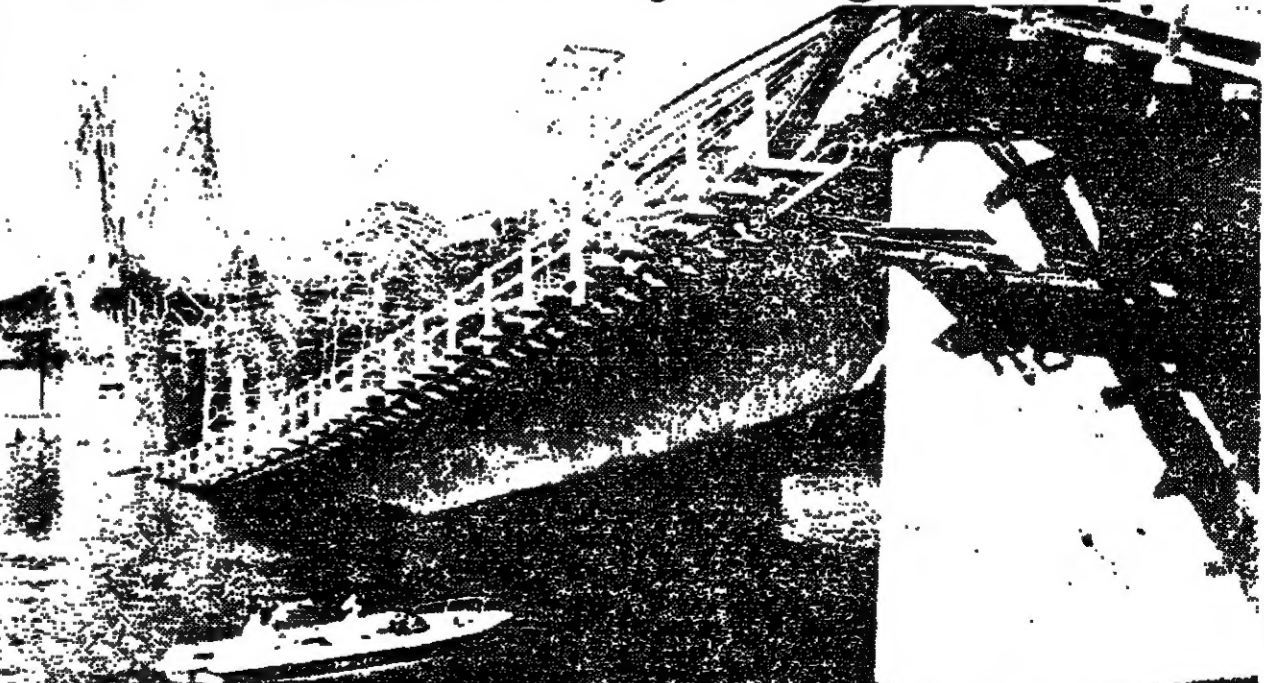
The Serbian leadership sees in greater centralization a guarantee that the security of the Serbian population in Kosovo, now reduced to fewer than 200,000 and continuing to decrease through emigration, would be safeguarded.

The Serbs claim that all their ills stem from the Constitution. However, the rest of the country believes the Serbs are attempting to dominate not only the province, but also the whole nation.

● KUMANOVO: Nine policemen were injured — one when he was hit with a picture of Tito — in clashes with ethnic Albanian demonstrators in this Macedonian town on Monday, police officials said yesterday (Reuters reports).

They said 200 ethnic Albanians took to the streets demanding schooling in their own language. They threw stones at the police and damaged several cars.

German motorway bridge collapses



A West German police patrol boat inspecting an 80-yard section of motorway bridge which collapsed into the river Main yesterday. The bridge, about 20 miles south-east of Frankfurt, plunged into the river while construction was in progress, and seven workers were injured, some of them seriously. The cause of the collapse was not immediately clear.

Drivers fume as central Milan becomes a no-go zone

From Roger Boyes, Rome

If there is life in the fast lane in Italy, it is not to be found on the autostradas, where the upper speed limit is now 110 km (66 miles) an hour, crippling the Ferraris and Maseratis.

Rather, it exists in Milan, the northern power house where otherwise normal people gulp their lunches, snap on the telephone, and produce 28 per cent of Italian national income.

However, the city fathers have decided that the time has come for more haste, less speed. From this week traffic has been banned from the centre during working hours.

The crazy parking, sometimes three cars abreast, and a daily time-wasting fight to find space, have

prompted the authorities to erect 14 barricades around the city centre.

The effect is of crossing into East Berlin, but the Wall is more porous in Milan. About 36,000 cars have been given a permit, and one in three cars that approached the barricades yesterday was allowed through.

The ban extends to all cars with Lombardy or Milan number plates; vehicles from out of town, Rome or Naples, usually get into the centre, which includes not only commercially important buildings such as the Stock Exchange but also La Scala Opera House and the cathedral.

The most irritating aspect of the ban is that it is also impossible to cross the city, and forces drivers to make a detour of several hours.

Further restrictions come into

effect in the middle of next month. Then cars will be permitted into the centre only if it can be demonstrated that they have guaranteed garage space.

Companies based in the centre which have parking allotments have a few hundred permits at their disposal. Daily tickets, costing about £1.50, will also be sold at newspaper kiosks to allow drivers to carry out urgent errands for an hour or so.

There were some fierce criticisms of this loophole from environmentalists and the traffic police, who fear that too many exceptions are being made already.

The Milanese say they are being taxed to enter their own city.

Dr Augusto Castagna, the traffic planner of Milan, responds fiercely: "What do you mean by a

tax on the centre? This ticket is for people who have an occasional or urgent need to go to the centre. It is not a tax — it represents the price of one hour in the garage."

Even before the latest crackdown, it was pretty tough in Milan. Signs would read "Non pensare neanche di parcheggiare qui" — don't even think of parking here.

The vulnerable rich have been consulting even wealthier psychiatrists suffering from a Milanese syndrome known as the *crisi di parcheggio*. The syndrome is a classic frustration aggression psychosis that results from the inability to find a parking space.

The iron law in Milan is that parking spaces disappear in proportion to the needs of the parker.

Milan is the first leading

commercial city to undertake such a drastic step. Florence has banned traffic from the centre since February, creating a "blue zone" guarded by some 300 vigilantes, most of them teenagers who re-direct traffic.

Rome also bans traffic, between set hours, from the historic centre. But whereas the Florentines enforce their rules strictly, the Romans treat the ban as just another challenge to be circumvented with gifts of chocolates, special permits (suddenly the centre seems to be full of doctors — yesterday I saw an 18-year-old "doctor" get out of a low-slung sports car, presumably a child prodigy) or, if all else fails, bluster.

The main reason for the Florence and Rome traffic bans is pollution: the car fumes are eating into some

of civilization's most treasured monuments. In Milan, not famous for its beauty, the motives are mixed, but mainly relate to money and squandered business time.

Too many hours are being lost on parking cars and towing away the illegally parked vehicles. No one pays the fines and the city is losing revenue.

The Milanese response to the new crackdown has been to create a huge black market.

The going rate yesterday for a permit on the black market was £350 and the price will soar when people return from holiday.

City centre garages and companies are quietly selling their surplus permits, and one church has even let it be known that it will give out passes in return for regular attendance and a "small donation".

Fatal ambush

Lisbon (Reuters) — Unita rebels ambushed and killed seven Angolan missionaries and a child in the central province of Huambo, the official Angolan news agency reported.

Train blast

Islamabad (Reuters) — A bomb blast in the luggage van of the Kyber Mail train killed three Pakistanis and injured 13 near Islamabad. Secret agents of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government were blamed.

Drug deaths

Barcelona (Reuters) — At least 41 people have died of drug overdoses in the past two months here after injecting themselves with unusually pure heroin.

Hirohito well

Tokyo — Emperor Hirohito, aged 87, was said by medical advisers to be in good shape but suffering from a cold, according to his medical advisers.

Aids victims

Nairobi (Reuters) — Kenyan Aids cases in the first half of 1988 numbered 1,235, near the combined total for the preceding four years, the Government said.

Family shot

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh militants stormed a village and shot dead five members of one family in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

Fever toll

Lagos (AP) — A yellow fever epidemic has claimed at least 20 lives in the northern state of Niger. Most of the dead are children.

SPECTRUM

Challenger tests the waters

Off the coast of Yorkshire, a research vessel is measuring the pollution of the waters lapping at Britain's doorstep.

Andrew Lycett went to talk to the scientists of the North Sea Project

The North Sea is a murky pond, as the search for the cause of a disease which has laid waste to seal populations has highlighted. Into it we pour our industrial waste, our sewage sludge, oil, fertilizers and yet more waste incinerated on special ships.

Now another special vessel, the 1,050-ton Royal Research Ship Challenger, is at sea with the task of finding out just how foul are the waters which lap, figuratively, at the nation's doorstep.

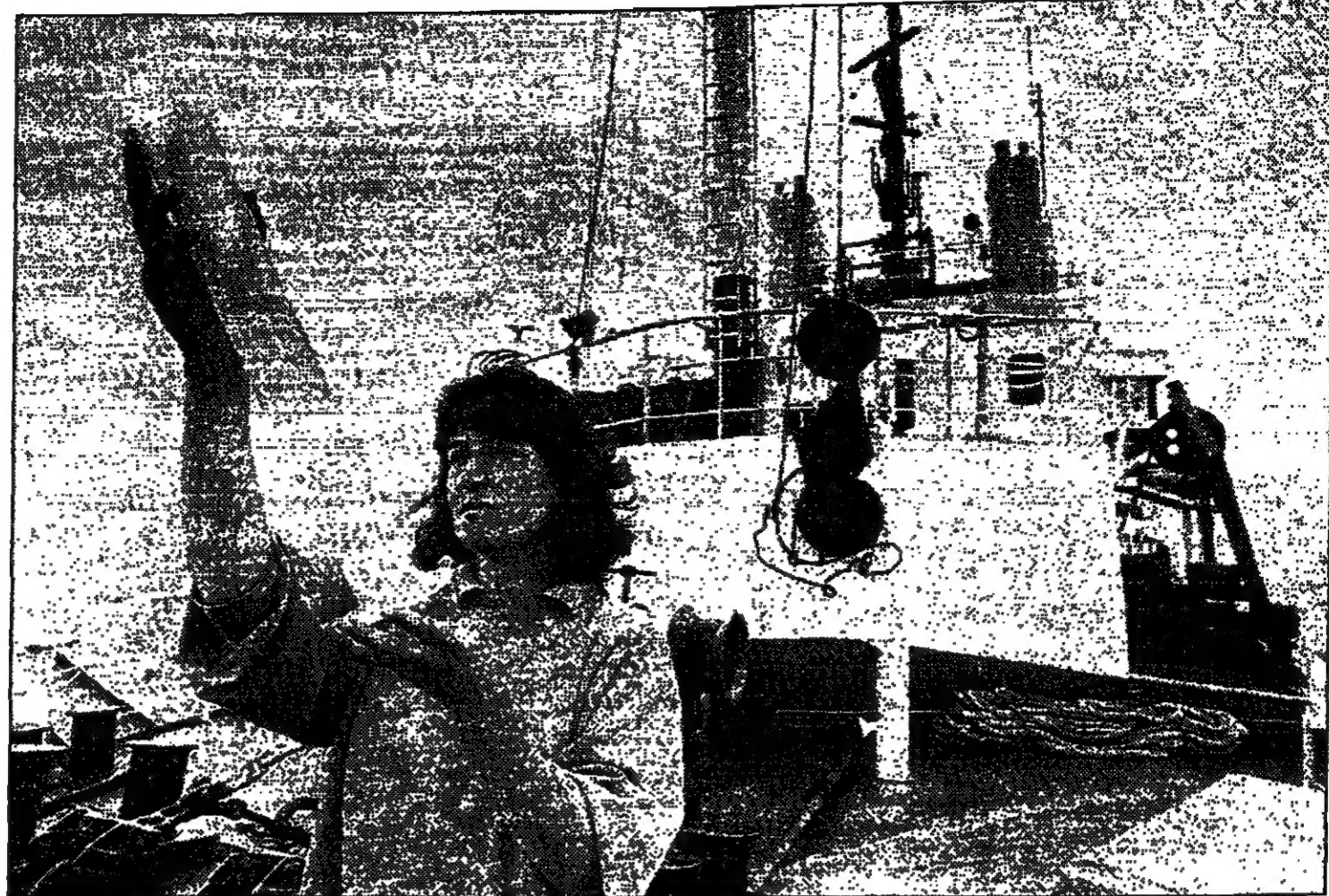
The Challenger sports a black hull, yellow twin funnels, and garish green and red on-deck cranes. Three miles into the North Sea, off the coast of Whitby, she looks a cross between pirate vessel and boat-lake tub. On the bridge, Captain Philip Warne recalls how an earlier marine research ship he commanded, the Shackleton, was fired upon by the Argentines off the Falklands in February 1976. The nearest the Challenger will get to that excitement is the video Falklands Task Force South, beside the VCR in the ship's bar (officers and scientific staff only). Underneath a print of Constable's Haywain, the ship's Chief Scientist Officer, Professor John Simpson, of the University of North Wales, enthuses about a voyage which has been 10 years in the planning. For the first time the disparate disciplines in marine science, including physics, chemistry, biologists and geologists, are coming together in a five-year research effort, designed to determine definitively how the North Sea "works".

Simpson stresses: "We're not the fire brigade. We won't give an immediate verdict on how much pollution effects the seal population. But we are hoping to provide a framework for predicting all potential pollutants." He maintains a careful scientific objectivity. But at times his feelings, backed by a lifetime of research, have a habit of emerging. Al-

though the North Sea Project is technically part of a co-ordinated European initiative (West Germany and Holland are also contributing), Simpson says Britain scores "very low on the level of caring governments. Our tendency is to say there isn't a problem, to try to make the whole thing go away." Letting his guard slip a little more, he adds: "It is when and how remedial action should be taken, rather than if. There is an argument for stopping discharges into the North Sea now." But this option would cost £800 million. So, fearing his research project effort may be viewed as "a substitute for action", Simpson and his team first have to collect the scientific data.

He says Britain has invested more resources in deep-sea than in shelf-sea (as in Continental Shelf) oceanography. He used to study what he calls blue seas. Then he realized how little was being done on the Cinderella of oceanography. Shelf-seas are those up to 200 metres in depth, in other words, all of the seas round Britain, including the North Sea. "We get our fish and oil and gas from them. We use them as an amenity for sailing and swimming. And, most important, we use them as a waste disposal system." And yet we know very little about the damage we might be doing to them. Simpson is clear, however, that "there is strong evidence that our use of the North Sea threatens its long-term health".

The Challenger project is hardly the \$1 billion international campaign called for by Sir Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, to combat North Sea pollution. But the £10m North Sea Project will make it clear what is happening around our coasts. Managed by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), it brings together about 100 scientists from 14 research institutes, including 10 universities. For 15 months, start-



Seeking a clearer view: analyst Carolyn Symon, on board the RRS Challenger, examines a sample of water taken from the North Sea

'Fish, oil and gas come from this sea, yet we know little about damage we may do'

ing four weeks ago, the Challenger will be plying for 14 days a month a regular 2,000-mile course around the southern area of the North Sea. The area off Scotland is ignored — an inevitable result of inadequate resources, according to Simpson. The NERC is one of those government research bodies continually under threat of financial cuts. At the moment 160 jobs are in danger. Only this week it was announced that NERC's Deacon Laboratory of the Institute of Oceanographic Science in Wormley, Surrey, is to close. The laboratory specializes in wave research and its work on the physics of waves has assisted the engineers of North Sea oil platforms, saving an estimated

£1 billion in construction costs. On each 14-day voyage, the 12 Challenger scientists lower a series of contraptions into the water to obtain data on its physics, chemistry, biology and sedimentology. Samples are tested for trace metal, nutrient and biogenic trace gas. Simpson says: "It should be possible to get data on a whole range of pollutants." However, he admits that the project — again because of lack of resources — is unable to study some of the more complicated organic industrial chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some scientists have suggested that it is these chemicals which are damaging the immune systems of seals, leaving them open to infection.

"We're having to concentrate on nutrients and some of the better behaved metals which do not have exotic chemistry," Simpson says. More sophisticated is the CTD (Conductivity, Temperature and Depth) measuring device, which transmits information back to the Challenger's computer room on such variables as surface temperature, fluorescence and dissolved oxygen. Dr Brian McCartney, head of the NERC's Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory at Birkenhead, which is managing the project, says: "Measures of pollution will show up in lack or abundance of dissolved oxygen."

On the other 14 days of every month, the Challenger's scientists

conduct more specific tests, such as what happens around the sandbanks which cover much of the North Sea, and how river estuaries — in this case the "plumes" of the Humber, Wash and Thames — disperse. These studies get to the core of the project's usefulness. "After our study," Simpson says, "we should be able to tell, if an industry wants to put more cadmium from its plant into the Tees, how much of that cadmium goes into the sediment, how much stays in the water, how far it moves from the shoreline, even how much cadmium should be deposited."

On its current voyage the Challenger is studying what are known as tidal mixing fronts, where

warmer and cooler areas of water come together. To test how pollutants would be dispersed on these fronts, Challenger drops its orange drift buoys which then transmit their positions to a satellite every three hours. "We leave them there and pick them up after a few days," Simpson says.

He produces a satellite picture showing a clear division between the colder water in the south and along the shores, which is light, and the warmer water in the North, which is dark. He says that the light band acts like a pipe. Through it radioactive waste deposited into the water off Windscale, on the Cumbria coast, is carried round the northern tip of Scotland into the North Sea.

Interesting effects happen at the frontal boundaries. Conditions are ideal for the concentration of the plankton which, some scientists say, has now reached dangerous levels, as nutrients from fertilizers run off fields, into the rivers and out to sea.

This has both negative and positive effects. Nitrates in the fertilizers stimulate the growth of plant plankton, which release sulphurous compounds into the atmosphere, contributing to the problem of acid rain. As blooms of plankton flourish, they produce toxins which can be tolerated by shellfish but are fatal to humans if ingested at their favourite seafood restaurant. On the other hand, plankton absorbs atmospheric carbon dioxide, caused partly by burning of fossil fuels. When it dies, it takes this gas temporarily out of the carbon cycle by locking it into sediments in the seabed in innocuous carbon deposits.

There is considerable overseas interest in these and other phenomena in shelf-seas. China's Yellow Sea, India's Bay of Bengal and Argentina's Patagonia Shelf are all shelf-seas, with characteristics similar to the strong tides of the North Sea. More than 10 per cent of all tidal energy in the world comes from the waters around Britain. But first the data has to be collected. "Britain could write the North Sea off as a dumping ground," Simpson says. "Or it could take the Greenpeace option and stop all discharge into the sea altogether. We believe there is a middle way of practical management. But we need to take it soon, and it must be based on true scientific understanding."

Exploding the world of architecture

It was inevitable that the reaction would come. For a decade since Philip Johnson slapped a Chipendale pediment on his AT & T skyscraper in midtown Manhattan and kicked off the post-Modernist boom, the architectural world has looked back and celebrated ornament and historical allusion. Rarely has a movement or style been so quickly absorbed by the commercial world. Easy and picturesque, post-Modernism was in tune with the unreflective Eighties, particularly Ronald Reagan's America. For years now a quota of plywood pediments, columns and arches has been de rigueur on every new shopping centre, airport terminal or even multi-storey car park.

The reaction predicted by

many was a retro-Modernism, a return to the International style, the clean-slab school of cool simplicity born of Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe that gave us the century's most enduring architectural idiom. It was, after all, the same Philip Johnson who as a young man helped anoint the International style with his landmark 1932 exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Now 82 years old and the elder statesman of American architecture, he has done it again. With "Deconstructivist Architecture", an iconoclastic exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, he gathered seven like-thinking architects from Europe and America and helped launch the notion that confusion, crazy angles and jagged discord may be making its way

What does the future hold for a new building style that looks like a bomb in a chopstick factory?

into the design vocabulary of the *fin de siècle*.

As he did with his earlier trend-spotting efforts, Johnson has sparked an angry debate, though this time he denies that he is launching a movement.

According to Mark Wigley, the young co-curator, they have identified "a different sensibility, one in which the dream of pure form has been

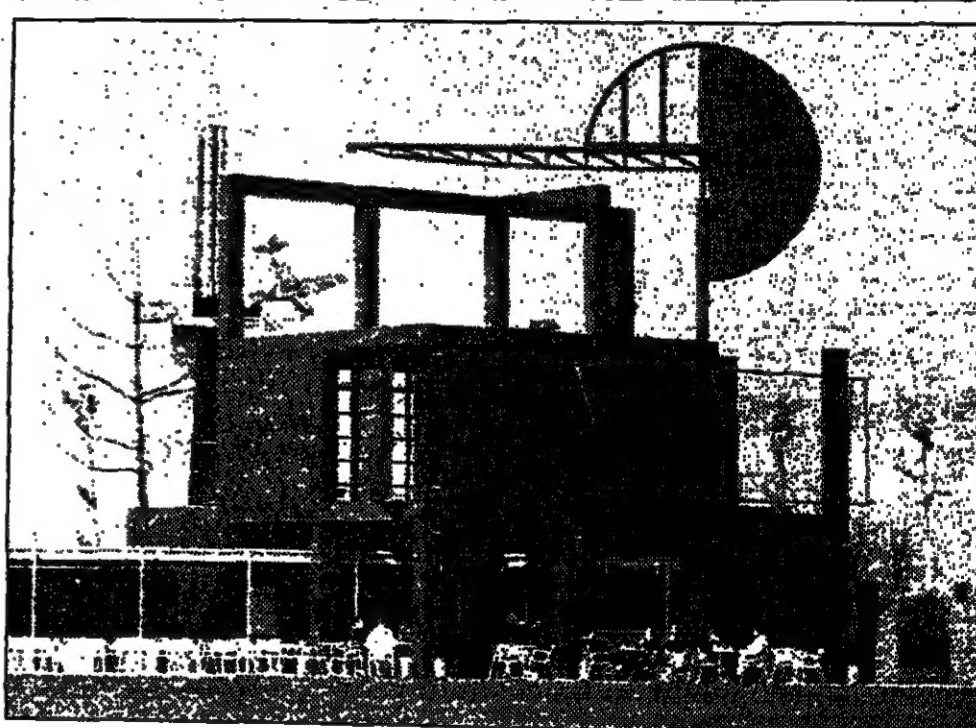
disturbed. Form has become contaminated. The dream has become a kind of nightmare."

Bizarre and disorienting, the Deconstructivist style, in as much as there is a common thread, delights in shattering the rules. Walls tilt, beams twist — the eye is shocked. It is as if someone tried to translate Escher's impossible drawings into space. Both the critics and the detractors — of whom there are many — find it hard even to pin down the style except to talk in metaphors from other media. "An explosion in a chopstick factory," says Paul Prejza, a Los Angeles designer. It is John Cage's dissonant and random music translated into building, says another. Michael Graves, an apostle of post-Modernism, calls it "slash-and-crash architecture". Reporting the Museum of Modern Art opening last month, *Newsweek* magazine said the style "prompts the science fiction fantasy and a nostalgia for the optimism of 1920s Russian avant-garde."

In fact, for all the esoteric and implausible aspects of Deconstructivism, the public has been getting a taste of the new style for some time. Frank Gehry, an idiosyncratic architect who is the old man of the group, built his Santa Monica home, a conventional house that looks as if it had been dislocated, a decade ago. His Aerospace Museum in

downtown Los Angeles boasts a twisted facade that fits the Deconstructivist label. Gehry's work is currently being celebrated at a separate exhibition at New York's Whitney Museum.

And as many of the critics have been pointing out, the Deconstructivist label is just a new way of grouping a style that had already become known as the "AA Look", from London's Architectural Association. Back in 1983, the AA's Zaha Hadid jolted the architectural world with her prize-winning design for a hillside Hong Kong sports club. Her model and painting showing the tangle of exploded planes are attracting crowds at the Museum of Modern Art, along with the model for a splintered skyscraper in Hamburg by the Co-op Himmelblau of Vienna. With its strange futuristic form, it evokes both the dream architecture of science fiction fantasy and a nostalgia for the optimism of 1920s Russian avant-garde. A room full of paintings and models by the Russian Constructivists sets the scene for the New York exhibition. The new architects have taken their main motif — intersecting and colliding planes — from the Russians, as well, it seems, as the dominant red and black colours. To this, at least according to the people



Which end is up? Intersecting planes of Frank Gehry's Aerospace Museum in Los Angeles

who coined the name, they have injected the ideas of disintegration articulated by the recent French literary movement founded by Jacques Derrida, called Deconstruction.

But the young architects deny adherence to any school or particular theory. They say they arrived intuitively at the same approach and are just having fun with an anti-style, an approach that Johnson calls playing with "the pleasures of unease". Fun, however, may not be the most ob-

vious emotion evoked by these jagged structures.

The big question is whether the imprimatur of Johnson will propel Deconstructivism into the marketplace. What looks more likely is an adoption by the commercial world of a diluted form of the Deconstructivist vocabulary, but not whole-hearted absorption. It would be difficult to imagine any corporation going for a Manhattan headquarters that looked as though it had just been swept by Hurricane Charlie. As Paul Goldberger, a

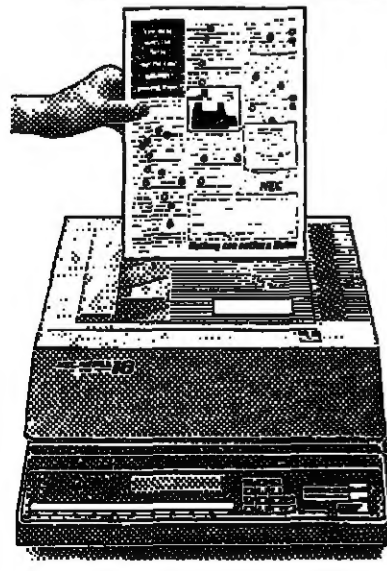
New York architecture critic, points out, Deconstructivism is less a movement than a subversive "correction in the architectural culture".

But you never know. The Deconstructivist approach is already making itself felt in interior design. Only a few blocks from the Museum of Modern Art, a trendy lighting shop is selling handsome table lamps with the tell-tale red and black grid of the Deconstructivist look.

Charles Bremner

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SCIENCE REPORT

Physics takes a chemistry lesson

The science of chemistry has a rather rusty air these days, lacking the glamour and popular appeal of particle physics or molecular biology. But, as an account in the current issue of the journal *Science* makes clear, modern chemists are concerned with much more than simply cataloguing what is produced when chemicals are mixed together. Using lasers and electronic instruments, they are trying to make snapshots of chemical reactions in progress, breaking down the almost instantaneous conversion of one molecule to another into a series of steps, each lasting as little as one ten-millionth of a second.

A molecule is a collection of atoms, the individual units of the chemical elements, held together in a certain way. When a chemical reaction occurs, the reacting molecules swap atoms or groups of atoms, and rearrange themselves differently.

In principle, some physicists are fond of saying, all such chemistry can be reduced to an application of quantum mechanics. Each atom has a tiny central nucleus surrounded by a

cloud of orbiting electrons. The reason that atoms stick together as molecules is because some of the electrons take up new orbits around two or more atoms, forming "bonds" between them. So because we know all the equations that determine how electrons behave, say the physicists, we can predict what orbits they will form, what molecules will be made, and what reactions between molecules will or will not occur.

The problem is that although the equations for electrons orbiting around a number of different atoms can be written down, they are far too complicated to be solved. So instead of physicists reducing all of chemistry to mere calculation, the chemists are using their specialized knowledge to begin to understand the nature of chemical bonds, and thus help physicists understand quantum mechanics better.

In this week's *Science*, Kevin Peters and Gary Snyder, of the University of Colorado, describe new laboratory techniques which allow chemists to observe some of the microscopic

changes that happen when one bond breaks and a new one forms. The particular kind of reaction they study is photoinduced — in other words, it is triggered by light. The substances they are investigating are mixed together in a solution and kept in the dark until a brief flash of laser light, lasting less than one thousand-millionth of a second, starts the reaction going.

When a bond between atoms breaks, a tiny amount of energy is given off. This release of heat makes the solution expand a little just in the vicinity of the reacting molecules, and the expansion pushes on the cooler liquid next to it and sets it moving. The net result is that a vibration — a sound wave — is set off, just as if the test tube had been very gently tapped. The experimenters can detect this sound wave with a very sensitive microphone, and its magnitude measures the amount of energy released.


Of course, after the complete reaction has finished, it is easy to measure the temperature of the whole solution, and find out how much heat

in total was given off. But in a complicated reaction there may be many bonds broken and many new ones formed, and measuring the final temperature change says nothing about any of these intermediate steps. With this new technique chemists can find how much energy is released in a single stage of the reaction, when one bond has broken but before any new ones have formed.

This modern kind of chemistry, whose goal is to find the exact sequence of events that constitutes a reaction between two molecules, should help quantum physicists in their efforts to "predict" the way molecules behave. But biologists, too, are looking in this direction: in the fight against Aids, for example, it is essential to know the precise sequence of interchanges by which the complex molecules of the body's immune system respond to the equally complex molecules of invading viruses.

David Lindley

© Nature News Service 1988



How do you curb a phonaholic? Is a nightclubbing nanny acceptable? Charlotte Breese and Imer suggest rules to help onionous living

your home should help reduce future friction. Both parties need to learn respect for each other's "space" and to nurture a mutual, and entirely healthy, desire to be apart some of the time under the same roof.

Even the most open-handed of employers, grabble ferociously and ruin your nanny's abuse of the telephone. This one area in which the employer may feel quite free to act as if she were the nanny's parent. Try to engender some guilt by telling her from the start that you don't want her to be extravagant with your phone. Show her the last phone bill and say that it is not expected to double in the next quarter. When it does, show her the new bill, jump up and down if it is your style, and threaten to make her pay the difference next time.

Naturally nannies need to be in touch with their families and this should be encouraged. Offer her a specific time to ring home each week.

Most people now let the nanny use the car or the second car if there is one. It is expected that she ask before driving away and always give her employer priority and reasonable notice. Some mothers have a blanket rule that their nanny never drives the children, for safety reasons and peace of mind. Others make quite sure that she is a competent driver. First, any nanny must have the absolute necessity of child safety belts, and of course her own.

If an enlightened employer is keen to have a long-stay happy nanny, allowing her to have friends to stay is a perk which shouldn't cost much or cause trouble as long as you lay down a few guidelines. A nanny's parents may be glad to spend a weekend in the house if you are away, so that they can have a look at the way their daughter lives and spend some time with her.

Most employers restrict a nanny's overnight visitors to "real girlfriends whom we know" and "members of her family". Employers are unanimous in discouraging weekend overnight visitors; requiring proper notice of anyone's arrival; and making it clear that any stay should be limited to a night or two only. They also evince a definite


With a responsible nanny who has a professional attitude to her job, the need to give instruction about when she is expected to be home at night does not arise. Many mothers are sure that their nanny or mother's help can cope after a night out and

Did you know that sprigs of pennyroyal, rue or tansy, strategically placed, will get rid of ants; that an infusion of camomile or valerian may relieve menstrual cramps, or that rosemary can make a concentrated household disinfectant? There have been books on recognizing herbs, growing herbs, cooking with herbs and herbal medicine, but *The Complete Book of Herbs* (Dorling Kindersley, £14.95), published tomorrow, combines all these functions – and more. Written by Lesley Bremness, who runs a "rare herb nursery" from the gardens of her 16th-century Suffolk cottage, it is published in association with the National Trust and enriched by magnificent colour photographs. It has an illustrated index of 100 herbs from aloe vera to yarrow – inspired by the herbals of Culpeper and Gerard – as well as 80 herbal recipes – including baked ham with marjolein glaze, spicy lemon balm kebabs, lovage and lentil roasts, and elderflower fizz), and instructions on whipping up herbal household products, remedies and

Mood shift

A simple cotton sleeveless shirt is expected to sell for between £1,200 and £1,500 on September 12 when Sotheby's auction of Rock'n'Roll Memorabilia 1956-1986 begins. The dress was worn by one of the usherettes at the charity premiere of *A Hard Day's Night* and was signed, while she was wearing it, by all four Beatles and Brian Epstein. Other fashion finds include Paul McCartney's collarless jacket, circa 1963 (a bargain if it brings in only the modest £500 to £700 listed) and Lennon's grey velvet collared jacket of the same era, which should fetch more than its top catalogue price of £800. Two Elvis Presley ensembles (street, not stage) are priced at between £1,000 and £3,000, and even Graceland security guard uniforms are expected to bring in more than twice as much as the Beatles jackets. The pieces are on view from Monday to Friday next week.

Quote me



"It's a question of making the health service user-friendly. And we have to make the student sensitive to the whole person, not just the body... Oh God, I sound like Prince Charles." **Professor Lesley Rees, dean of St Bartholomew's medical school**

Needle point

THE BIG FOUR: Families with children under five are the most likely to be in financial difficulty, says the report.

There are three sorts of help: the untrained English Aussie or Kiwi, and overseas whose mother tongue is English. The minimum time foreign or English people spend in London, by far, is more experienced English make as much as a native which point she is called Aussie and Kiwi do what they do, but mustn't whack. In 1988, this salary of £60-£70 a week

Foreign air pairs are said to be paid as little as £15 per week, according to the Home Office guidelines.

of your children. If a nanny can lie, fib, prevaricate, cheat or fudge about little things, even by omission, you do not know exactly what is going on. This is your right as an employer. A nanny should say what she does and do what she says.

Infatuation may strike the nanny too. One father went upstairs to get a suitcase and was amazed to find in a cupboard a shrine to himself. His photograph was mounted and surrounded with lipstick kisses and buttercups, Indian beads and burnt joss sticks.

Apart from any moral view, it is not practical to keep someone in the house who tells lies or steals money or valuables. Honesty has to be a house rule for the protection

The Good Nanny Guide by Charlotte Breese and Hilaire Gomer will be published on September 8 by Century (£6.95).

TOMORROW
Nanny as educator,
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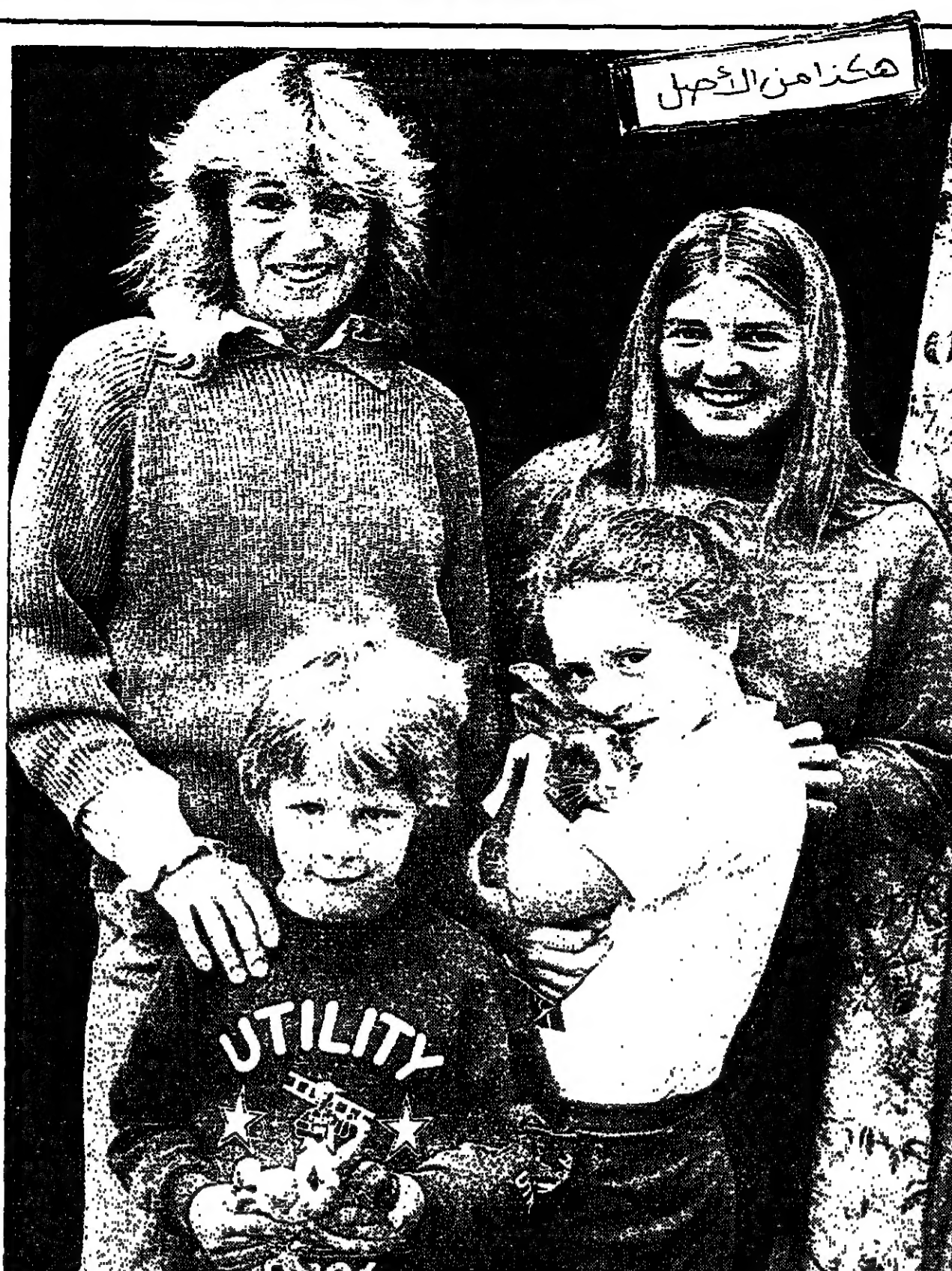
(£79 plus £2.50 p&p), or buy an electric footwarmer (£18.95 plus £2.95 p&p), or simply an elastic lace to make tying shoes a thing of the past (£1.90 post-free for two pairs). New to the impressive range of "ortho-care" gadgetry are Isotoner Sleep Gloves (£10.45 per pair, post-free) which promise relief from the pain, stiffness and swelling associated with arthritis in the hands. They are offered on a seven night free trial basis for the sceptical details and cut-out from Chester-car, 16 England's Lane, London NW3 4TG.

In good voice

A quote from Norman Lebrecht in *The Times* of July 1987, begins the brochure for the Opera Course: "The curtain falls this night on another season of triumph at the Royal Opera in Britain, with music drama replacing straight theatre as the favourite entertainment of the 1980s." So successful was the first Opera Course that a second will be held this autumn. Visiting lecturer, Norwich consultant to the course, says it is advisable to book now as there are only 60 places available. Norwich will be one of the speakers (on *Simon Boccanegra*, October 13), together with Alan Sievegright

(Turando, October 6). Desmond Shawe-Taylor, music critic of *The Sunday Times* since 1958 (Falstaff, October 20). Rodney Milnes, editor of *Opera* magazine (*Rigoletto*, October 27). Nigel Douglas ("Great singers of Puccini" (November 3) and Geoffrey Heacourt (*Costi fan tutte*, November 14). You can catch at least four two-hour Thursday morning sessions for £135 or eight for £200 at the Minema cinema in Knightsbridge, London, where coffee will be offered at 10.15am before a two-hour lecture begins at 10.45. Not everyone's cup of tea, perhaps, and not everyone can spare the money (the money they could buy a couple of tickets to the real thing) - but stalwarts who can sit through the Ring Cycle should appreciate the November 10 lecture on *Das Rheingold* by Elise Mayer-Lismann, and have the enthusiasm left to shout bravissimo to Sir John Pople as he starts stirring the induction of "My" years at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden" (November 17). Brochures and details from Sally Windham, 23 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HU (01-235 3264).

Victoria McKee



Helping with everything round the clock: Nicky Baring (left) with her nanny, Meredith, and children Simon and Sophie

A high turnover is the price Nicky Barington, owner of Hampshire Farm, has to pay for the right nanny. She has had a series of temporary girls mainly from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. "I did have two superb girls from Yorkshire. I find their attitude better than southern girls. I say right from the start that I want someone who's 34 hours a week and if there's a short burst of breath rather than a laugh, I know she's not right," says Sophie, seven, and Simon, five, are at school during the day; so current live-in nanny Meredith Stanton, 24, from Australia, has plenty of free time to ride the family's horses and visit friends in the family car. She has one weekend in four and one day a week off, her own room, and use of the children's lounge in the evenings, and is paid "the going rate". Originally taken on for five months, she has stayed on for a year. "I don't have many house rules," says Nicky, who works part time. "I don't mind smoking and we always give the nanny a stiff drink to help her get through bath time. I don't mind her friends coming to stay if we have the room, and she can invite them round in the evening. I don't mind how late it is in the evening as long as she's not tired out the following day. I had to gate one girl because she was out every night until 1am and was constantly worn out. She was barely 18 and was furious when I imposed a 10.30pm curfew. I'm cooking in the evening, then the nanny eats with us. She also eats with us sometimes if we have a dinner party. But she also helps me out with dinner parties. I expect a girl to help out with everything, but I'll pay extra or give extra time off. Unfortunately, English girls generally seem to think that a nanny's job is like a holiday camp."

THE BIG FOUR: PAY, TIME OFF, HOLIDAYS AND PERKS

hours a week. In London, the going rate is £18 to £25 for 20 hours a week.

There are lots of reasons for raising your nanny's salary: the good rule is to do it often and as generously as you can afford.

● **Time on and time off:** Ninety per cent of employers reckon it is their job to deal with their children at night. In effect, many nannies spend most of their week on 24-hour duty.

Asking nannies to do more hours than were discussed and agreed at the interview is a common transgression by employers and one which causes a lot of resentment. You must be clear exactly what you want your nanny to do from the beginning.

Nannies who are in sole charge during the week expect every weekend off. Increasingly the trend is towards the nanny's job becoming a five-day-week affair. This trend is supported by the rising numbers of working mothers who want to look after their children

themselves at weekends.
• Holidays: Holidays should be paid

● **Holidays:** Holidays should be paid. The range is from two (mean) to four (generous) weeks. Bank holidays should be made up in some way.

● **Perks:** Some examples of a worth-

while perk are totally self-contained and well-decorated accommodation with a separate entrance and telephone line; a smart car for the nanny's exclusive use and petrol, service, insurance all paid, of course; the employer may make available her hairdresser, dressmaker, masseuse, exercise class, manicurist free of charge to her nanny.

There are also recreational facilities like the tennis court, the indoor and/or outdoor swimming pools, horses, jacuzzis, saunas, helicopters, yachts, and even complete gymnasiums.

Less exotic and more affordable nanny entertainment can be provided by tickets to pop concerts or the ballet. Extra time off is always popular.

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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

In the first race at Windsor on Saturday, my father had a winner. I don't just mean Robert backed the right horse (in itself a rare occurrence), but that he actually owns Class Struggle. In almost 80 years of racing, and perhaps 40 of intermittent ownership, this has happened to him only about a dozen times, and I can't think of anything in his life, except for my mother — that has ever made him quite so blissfully happy.

Given the choice between winning an Oscar and winning a minor selling plate at Windsor, Robert would undoubtedly always choose the latter. His father was a compulsive gambler, but I used to think the strain might have died out with his generation because my brother and sister and I all tend to glaze over with boredom at the first sight of a horse under starter's orders, though my brother does admittedly gamble on Australian theatrical productions, which are usually an even riskier venture than the track.

Yet looking at my younger daughter Juliet, home and positively glowing with her winnings from Windsor at the weekend, it occurs to me that for the next 40 years of my life, as for the last 40, there will always be someone I love very much ransacking the backs of newspapers for the starting prices.

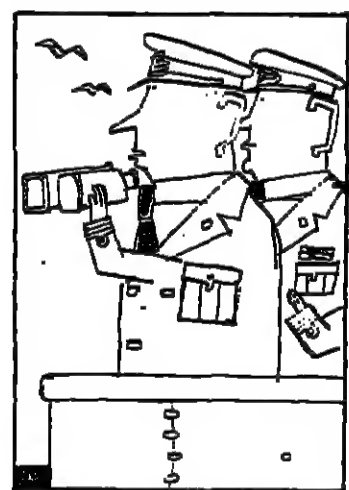
For reasons I will not trouble you with, I am no longer living at home in the Thames Valley but in a flat just behind Madame Tussaud's. It is all very curious and rather nostalgic. The last time I lived in a flat in central London was about 25 years ago, when they were inclined to cost about £9 a week. I started off in a couple of rooms above a paint store next to Paddington station, and used to lie awake at night worrying whether I would fit through the small leaded windows in the event of a sudden conflagration.

Then I moved above a launderette just off the Bayswater Road, and finished up sharing digs with Christopher Matthew, the great and good comic novelist, in a flat way out in Parsons Green owned by the actor Ian McCulloch. He was at that time giving his *Macbeth* to the playgoers of Chicago. One day the postman clambered up the stairs with a registered letter to be handed only to McCulloch. "He's in Chicago," I said. "Chicago, is it?" replied the postman thoughtfully. "Well, I'd better come back about half-past three then."

Christopher and I knew it was time to leave when we found all our rubbish neatly piled up outside the flat door, with a note to the effect that though we had taken the rooms, we had failed to acquire any dustbin rights downstairs. I then got married, and have been living almost ever since in a house on the edge of a farm in Berkshire.

The first thing that happens when you move back into a flat after a quarter of a century in a house is that you keep walking into doors and baths and bedrooms, because somehow they are all much closer together than you expect them to be. Then you have to keep remembering not to stand totally nude staring out of the bedroom window, because if you're my shape it tends to depress or alarm the people living in the flat opposite, whereas at the side of a farm it was only the cows and an occasional tractor. Then again, you have to remember when there's a noise upstairs not to shout at the children to shut up for God's sake, as the noise turns out mysteriously to be coming from someone who is not a blood relative.

BARRY FANTONI



"Skull and crossbones, ahead, skipper. Let's hope it's pirates and not the Karin B."

But I have been hugely lucky, in that the flat I'm renting is owned by an enchanting lady who teaches drama in New York and used to do so over here, so all her shelves are full of the same theatre books that I had at home. Being a creature of bookcase habit, there is something for me deeply reassuring about looking along a shelf and finding not only the same titles, but all arranged in roughly the same order as at home. I even found a couple of biographies that I'd written, and there is nothing better for the ego than that on a damp Bank Holiday weekend.

It is also entirely possible now for me to get from the bath to the *Punch* office in Fleet Street in about 15 minutes, whereas it used to take a couple of hours from Berkshire on a slow M4 morning. But however early I leave the flat, there is always a marathon queue winding its way around the block from the Planetarium. Does anyone who is not a tourist or a schoolchild have the faintest idea what actually goes on in there, or why people are apparently prepared to queue night and day to look at what must surely be available free by just staring upwards into the heavens?

Reading this newspaper's revelations last week of a conversation allegedly involving Lord Havers and the *Spycatcher* affair, apparently picked up by eager listeners in the lavatory of the Garrick Club, it occurs to me that I must go in there at altogether the wrong moments. All I ever seem to hear are publishers whinging about having to pay their authors' royalties or, on one memorable occasion, an extremely distinguished old actor muttering to his companion across the basins that the club was definitely going downhill since they had started letting in drama critics like me and Milton Shulman. I had the grace to smile at him benignly, but I don't think he was wearing his glasses.

National disruptive action by the Union of Communication Workers will probably cause more inconvenience than chaos. Over-use of the strike threat has lowered the UCU's credibility since the early 1970s, when Mr Tom Jackson was almost as regular a figure announcing an interrupted postal service as Mr Alan Tuffin has become.

The union bluff was first called in 1971, when Mr Heath's government toughed out a seven week strike in support of a 15 per cent pay claim. Since then, it has persisted in national disputes — four during the 1970s — followed by an attempted boycott of mail to South Africa, and an attempt to blockade Grunwick during its union troubles. The 1980s have been worse, with 213 disputes in 1987-88, pushing the number of working days lost to over 63,000.

The UCU has continued to act as if its bargaining aspirations were being frustrated by the intransigence of Post Office management, rather than the realities of economic life. In fact, the Post Office has been too slow to automate its systems, decentralize its bargaining and remove restrictive practices.

Each significant improvement in management efficiency has hit union problems. Before the union fastened on local pay

Graham Mather says today's postal strike will simply boost the alternatives

Tuffin and the fax factor

incentives, it objected to plans to liberalize the unwieldy system of expensive Crown Office post offices. Other disputes have concerned the use of casual and part-time staff, adjustment to postmen's working week, and an almost traditional threat to disrupt the Christmas mail. A letter mechanization programme begun in 1969 has been long delayed by UCU obstruction.

Each time letter boxes are sealed more Post Office customers experiment with other means of communicating with each other. Since the early 1980s, professional firms have stepped up their use of document exchange services. A courier market has developed for urgent packets charged at more than £1. But a national strike now could set off a stage by stage change in business communications through the telecom system.

Britain is tied up in a telecom boom which will double the West European telecoms market

from 105 billion ECUs to 200 billion — or £134 billion — by 1992. Britain accounts for a third of alternative network services — and the sudden take-off in fax machines suggests that business substitution of fax correspondence for letters is now a real possibility. By June this year well over 250,000 fax machines had been installed — overtaking telex and way ahead of electronic mail. With new installations running at almost 100,000 every six months, the fax boom should cause real concern to the Post Office.

A postal strike could massively reinforce the "fax culture". Although some companies have already expanded their fax capacity and are using them intensively, many businesses confine their use to urgent items. That would probably change quickly — and permanently — as a strike brought a scramble for fax machines, and a new approach to their regular use. A

post strike would open the eyes of business to new means of communicating which are technically possible, but not yet part of business culture. A modern telecom business like Mercury will in future routinely be able to take correspondence from a personal computer, turn it into a fax, a telex, an electronic mail letter and transmit it by cable or satellite worldwide, instantly, even paging the recipient and displaying the message to be read out on an alphanumeric pocket pager.

The contrast between today's technology and the laborious attempts of the UCU to perpetuate old approaches and poor performance could scarcely be more acute. But the Post Office faces a challenge from another front. Providers of banking and financial services, databases and electronic fund transfer systems also have their eyes on a new market opening up. Computer companies are racing to establish

the technology for a national electronic fund transfer network. A national strike would produce another culture change as these providers, from the bank giro system to "intelligent" credit card terminal operators, look at the scope for eliminating the Post Office from ever more daily customer communications. Already large mail order houses can swiftly shift order systems to bank giro forms and delivery to their own, or contracted private delivery services.

Against this background the question of the Post Office's remaining letter post monopoly assumes less significance: the letter is probably in long-term decline other than for direct mail campaigns and personal correspondence. But it makes little sense to perpetuate the monopoly, and exasperated Post Office managers might now welcome the outright removal of the weapon with which the UCU has battered them over the years.

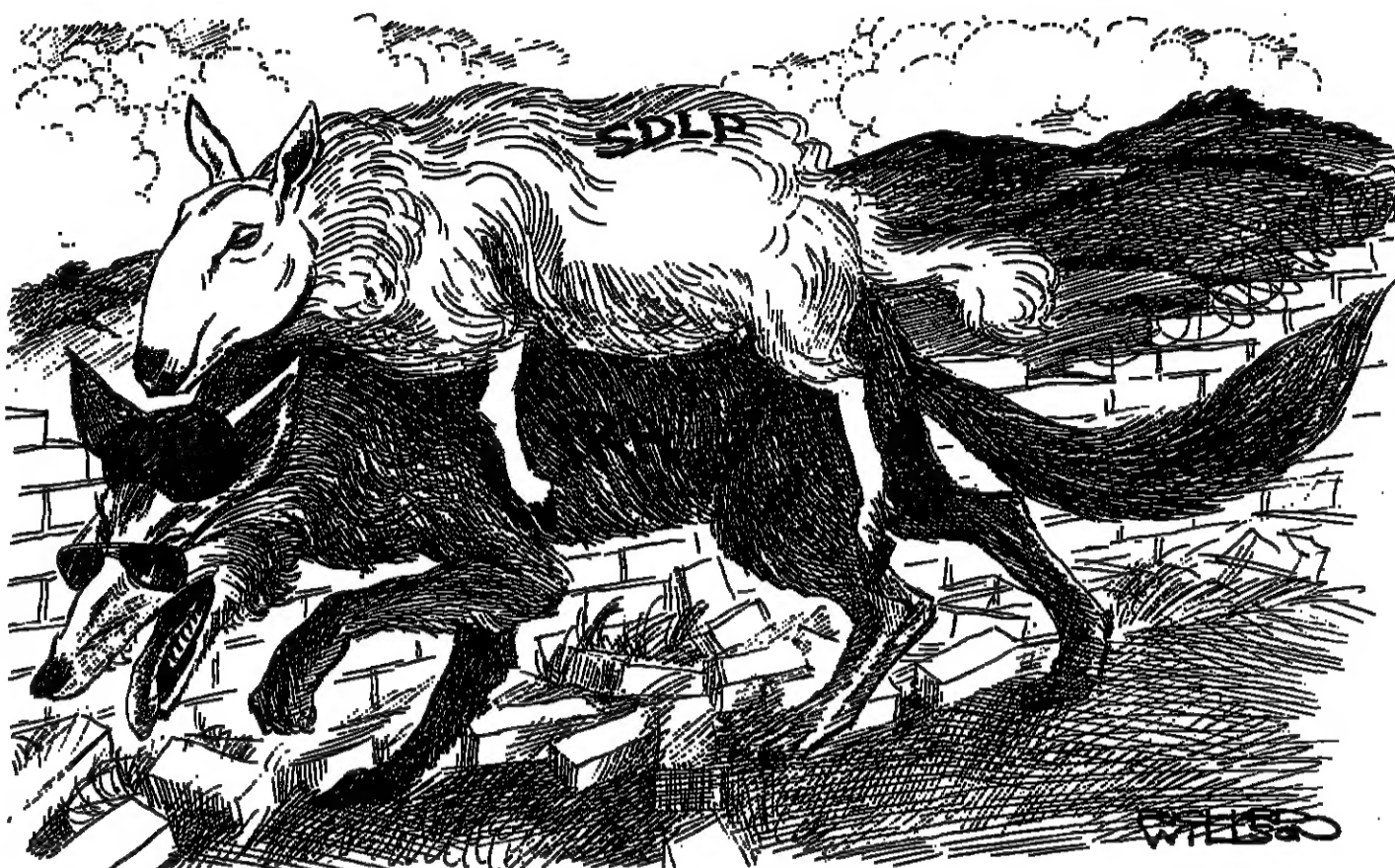
The existing government guidelines on suspending the monopoly are clear. They provide for its suspension if industrial action in the Post Office results in a cessation or serious decline in the quality of the postal service. But it would make more sense to suspend the monopoly and keep it suspended. Some believe that the current profitability of the Post Office, with its improved management, national network, trained staff and experience, makes it a viable candidate for privatization.

The objection that the Royal Mail is too precious to entrust other than to government hands carries little weight when the letter boxes are sealed. With all the signs now that business will be able to cope with a postal strike, that a strike would give a kick start to massive expansion of new data systems, it will be ordinary private customers of the Post Office who will suffer the inconvenience and sadness of being unable to keep in touch with those close to them. If private providers can ease their plight during the current dispute, they should be allowed to stay in the market once it is over.

The author is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Ignorance makes easy prey



ing power rests on the back of the armed struggle." I think most people in Northern Ireland, in both communities, see the matter in precisely that light. But few people in Britain seem to have noticed what is going on.

Seamus Mallon, on RTE radio on Saturday, having ruled out internment and all-over "repressive" responses to the IRA, indicated that the correct response has to be a political solution. The Unionists, said Mr Mallon, in a revealing phrase, would have to "come out of their trenches" and join in discussions with the nationalist parties of all Ireland, about an all-Ireland solution. In short, the Unionists will have to surrender. Until they do so, the violence will continue, through no fault of the SDLP, which will continue punctiliously to denounce each individual atrocity, in its immediate aftermath.

The IRA, with discreet and deniable assistance from the SDLP, has made considerable progress since November 1985, the date of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Most Catholics approve of the agreement, not as an "active reconciliation" — the formula that appeared on the label — but as a goal scored against the Protestants.

The SDLP and the IRA were given about equal credit for that achievement. And both are now demanding, each in its own language, further advances at the expense of the Protestants, further moves towards a united Ireland. As the Protestants are not about to throw in the sponge, the stage is being set for even greater violence.

I don't think the IRA can be beaten without the simultaneous introduction of internment on both sides of the border. That cannot come unless and until the Republic, for its own reasons, decides that it is necessary to bring back internment.

Republican reactions to last week's extraditions may stimulate thinking along those lines. The modern IRA is a greater potential threat to the Republic than any subversive organization previously known. In any case, contingency plans for internment should now be placed on the agenda of the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference.

car on the Continent — armed attacks on whom can be justified, with some credibility, as part of a military operation.

If you were thinking of a motoring holiday in France or Germany this autumn, you would do well to hire a French or German car. British licence plates, after last week's decision, might make you a target. Those who made that decision don't seem to have given much thought to what the IRA are actually like.

More generally, I fear that most British politicians have only the haziest impression about the social and political context of the Provisional IRA's home territory: the Catholic areas of Northern Ireland. We heard, for example, last week from Roy Hattersley about what the effect of the re-introduction of internment would be in the minority areas. Internment would be disastrous, Mr Hattersley thought, because it would alienate "law abiding people" in the areas concerned.

I imagine that, in Yorkshire,

the expression "law abiding people" may have a fairly straightforward and stable connotation. In Northern Ireland, this is not the case, and it is especially not the case in the Catholic areas. If by "law abiding people" you mean people who are not themselves in the habit of breaking the law, by acts of commission, then there are many such people in the areas in question. But if you confine the use of the term "law abiding" to people prepared to co-operate with the police and other law enforcement agents against malfeasors of all descriptions, then the number of the law abiding, in those areas, dwindles to vanishing point.

Specifically, people in those areas are not prepared to co-operate with the police against the IRA. On the other hand,

many of them have a high propensity to co-operate with the IRA against the security forces and the Protestant community. As Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP put it last

week: "The British already exercise the most stringent powers in Western Europe... there must be no further repressive legislation... the root of the problem is the inability of the security forces to obtain evidence to convict... one reason for this is that the whole security operation does not command respect and support within the community."

Mr Hattersley is right to the extent that the re-introduction of internment would be followed by large scale protests among the population of the Catholic areas. But "the alienation of the law abiding" is not what would be involved. What would be involved would be a general alliance, for a particular propaganda campaign, within different shadings of a community whose members refuse, in all circumstances, to co-operate with the security forces.

I don't know whether any British politicians are beginning to realize the extent to which they — and the Dublin government — were conned by the SDLP at the time of the genesis of the Anglo-Irish Agreement,

which was of course the brain child of the SDLP leader, John Hume.

The agreement, if you remember, was supposed to be aimed at "isolating the men of violence" by ending "the alienation of the minority". Nothing of the kind has happened. The violence has increased throughout the entire lifetime of the agreement. The men of violence, far from being isolated, have been engaged in cosy and protracted converse with the SDLP.

The SDLP still refuse to advise their supporters to give evidence against the IRA; they also oppose any legal changes — "repressive legislation" — which might have the effect of compensating for the inability to obtain evidence. These SDLP positions are inherently helpful to the IRA, providing them with a layer of respectable cover.

But the IRA are also helpful to the SDLP. As Danny Morrison — publicity director of Sinn Féin and a participant in the Sinn Féin-SDLP talks — put it this month: "The SDLP's negotiat-

Commentary • MUSA MAZZAWI

The land the UN forgets

In a speech to the US Congress in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson said: "No peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed..."

This concept, which later became known as the principle of self-determination, was incorporated in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter. By and large, the UN has acted in conformity with it. The one exception, however, has been Palestine and the Palestinian people.

The issue as seen by the Palestinian Arabs is very simple. They have lived in the land of Palestine for many centuries. From 1919 onwards they were forced to accept an increasing number of Jewish immigrants. In 1947 the UN partitioned Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The Jewish state — which became Israel — occupied more territory than was allotted to it. One part of the remainder of Palestine was annexed by King Abdullah of Jordan (and became known as the West Bank); the other (the Gaza Strip) was administered by Egypt.

In 1967 Israel occupied the entire land of Palestine. Now King Hussein of Jordan has formally announced that he no longer lays claim to the Palestinian part of his kingdom. To whom does that part of Palestine now belong?

The Israeli argument is that

Palestine belongs to them, either because the Almighty so willed in the Bible or because nobody else exists to lay legitimate claim to it. On the basis of modern international law, Palestine belongs to its people. Much the same as Britain, the United States and France belong to the British, American and French peoples. If the rights of the British, the Americans and the French are readily conceded, why is there such hesitation and prevarication about the rights of the Palestinian people?

The law in regard to the Palestine problem is not really complicated. The Arabs objected to the UN partition scheme, arguing that the UN General Assembly had no authority to partition that country, and that even if it did it was unreasonable to do it in that manner. The General Assembly repeatedly refused to accede to Arab requests to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, so the court, which is the highest international judicial body and an organ of the UN, was never asked to pronounce on the issue.

Unless the law is to be regarded as an ass — and an irrelevant one at that — it remains the only criterion by which to judge the rights and wrongs of the dispute over Palestine. The Jewish state owes its existence to the UN resolutions, and has been recognized by the UN on that basis. Arab Palestine is equally entitled to

exist, and in the territory allocated to it by the 1947 Resolution. On that basis Arab Palestine has the right to be recognized as a state.

As for the government of that state, the UN General Assembly has recognized the PLO as a "national liberation movement" and accorded it observer status. If the PLO now establishes a government-in-exile for Arab Palestine it would not be doing anything different from what several European countries did after the Nazi occupation in World War II. Those governments-in-exile were legally recognized. The criterion for recognition of governments in international law is whether they are representative of their peoples — not whether they are liked by the recognizing state.

Questions have been raised about the credibility, the relevance and the objectives of the PLO. The UN can verify this by conducting a plebiscite amongst the Palestinians. The PLO is on record as welcoming this test — unnecessary and superfluous though it thinks it is. Whoever the Palestinians then choose or approve as their representative ought to be accepted in that capacity by the rest of the world. And the Palestinian state should be considered for admission to the UN on the usual criteria for membership laid down in Article 4 of the Charter.

If the idea of a Palestinian state and a government-in-exile is not acceptable to the UN, then

it should consider afresh what to do with the Palestinians. There is a precedent in the treatment of Namibia. The International Court of Justice was asked by the UN for its opinion on the status of that territory. In 1966 the General Assembly adopted Resolution 2145, terminating South Africa's mandate over the territory and upholding the right of the territory's inhabitants to self-determination. It also placed the territory under the direct control of the UN. A special body was set up — called the Council for Namibia — to administer the territory. In 1971 the International Court ruled that South Africa's continued presence in the territory was illegal, and that all members of the UN were obliged to respect that decision.

There is nothing to prevent the UN from establishing a Council for Palestine to administer the affairs of the inhabitants of eastern Palestine (the West Bank) and the Gaza sector, as well as those parts of Palestine which the UN ruled belonged to the Arab state of Palestine more than 40 years ago.

There is no hint in the UN's repeated declarations of principle on human rights and self-determination which could justify excluding the Arab people of Palestine from their operation. There is nothing special or unique about the Palestinians — except perhaps that their cries for justice are disregarded. The author is a Palestinian and an expert on international law.

AUGUST 31 ON THIS DAY 1883

This travel article on Chicago also included a visit to Pullman, 11 miles away. On land which three years before had been no more than a prairie farm, a new town had sprung up which was soon to export luxury railway coaches all over the world.

A GROWING RIVAL TO NEW YORK

The initial impression made upon the visitor first entering Chicago is of the gigantic railway arrangements, and this is followed as he rides in an omnibus to his hotel by a sharp experience of the billowy condition to which much travel has reduced some of the wooden street pavements.

But such shortcomings are forgotten when the Chicago hotel is entered. This city presents several immense and elaborate types of the grand American hostelry, famed everywhere as an aggregation at so many dollars a day, of about everything the traveller may want or think of, albeit in some cases actual comfort may be sacrificed to magnificence. The most elaborate... is Mr. Potter Palmer's splendid fireproof structure, upon which \$500,000 sterling has been spent in building and decoration.

Within such palatial apartments and amid such gorgeous surroundings, it is almost impossible to believe that under the American hotel system the first duty of the traveller is considered to be to get even with the landlord by faithfully going through every course of the elaborate bill of fare. The word "hotel" in the States includes a

great deal more than merely lodging and food. These are the necessities, but they are accompanied by various accessories such as few hotel-keepers provide elsewhere. There are the extensive public parlours; reading, writing, smoking and reception rooms; the elevators constantly running; the electric bells and lights; messenger service; the billiards room; pool room, tennis alley, bar and barber's shop; the eating rooms that keep going from daylight to past midnight; the restaurant, wine, and coffee rooms; the aggregation of shops where everything needed can be bought without going out of doors...

The wide streets facilitate the enormous amount of moving traffic in the business portions of Chicago. Their wooden pavements and sidewalks are in many places in bad condition, but are being gradually replaced by more durable ones of stone. Unfortunately, the magnificent appearance of the finer buildings is marred by the griminess caused by the smoke, an evil that Chicago is already discussing how to get rid of.

The city of Chicago is making rapid strides, and is destined at no distant day to rival New York in population. She commands the entrance to the great North-West, all the routes to and from that vast region of limitless future growth leading through Chicago, and most of its financial and business interests, being controlled by Chicago people. The people here are proud of their city's amazing progress, and are generally so busily engaged in pushing their enterprises further and in piling up fortunes, that they have no time to think of much else...

مكتبة الأصيل



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THE WASTE SHIP

The cargo of chemical waste on board the vessel Karin B is a potential environmental hazard. It is also a potential political embarrassment. It would be encouraging to think that Mrs Virginia Bottomley's decision to deny the ship access to British disposal facilities was designed solely to protect the environment. But that is not the most likely reason.

Last year, according to Government figures, some 53,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were imported into Britain, more than double the previous year's total. There is understandable reluctance to express pride in Britain's booming waste business, even though these "imports" are profitable services tendered by British companies to foreign customers and that British work in both treatment and disposal is commercially and technologically competitive.

In an ideal world, the industry would not be necessary. Waste-makers would clear up their own mess — like Boy Scouts. But in the real world of muck and brass, some waste trade is both inevitable and desirable. Properly regulated professionals are likely to do the job better.

The waste disposal industry could be better controlled. The Hazardous Waste Inspectors, in a report to the Government earlier this year, made a number of recommendations for doing so. Progress could be hastened in controlling the growth of the international trade in waste. These are the political nettles which must be grasped.

It is hard to see how Mrs Bottomley's legalistic reasoning about labels helps matters. Nor does her summary dispatch of the problem as "one for the Italians". It may have been a well-intentioned bid to show a tough British attitude. But it sounded more like John Bull play-acting.

The Italians are certainly not blameless. If they did not turn a blind eye to the original shipment out of Pisa, then they were blithely indifferent to its ultimate destination once the Nigerians had reshipped the waste. But the

reckoning of accounts with the Italians ought to wait. The ship appears to be at risk of leaking toxic material into British sea. That fact demands action other than turning it away. It would have been better to risk the whopped-up wrath of the West Country, use the Royal Navy, and manage the safe disposal of the waste on land.

Such action would not be selfless. Britain is regularly accused in European councils — with some justice — of dragging its feet over anti-pollution measures. Resolute action over the Karin B would not only remove a hazard, it might give the Foreign Office an opportunity to seize the initiative in one or more of the sets of negotiation now going on under the environmental rubric. Such action would be seen as highly *communautaire* — a useful stance in fending off West German demands for the imposition elsewhere in the community of the high-cost German waste disposal regime.

Eventually, there must be common European standards governing the production and disposal of hazardous materials. In the meantime, the British Government should set in better order the domestic regime.

On the table there are recommendations from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Hazardous Waste Inspectors' report, and an as yet unfinished report from the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment. There is a long list of unaddressed problems, including too many badly regulated dumps and a disposal industry only just feeling its way into effective self-regulation.

But on the positive side of the balance there are a number of British companies with a good record of research and development on non-nuclear toxic waste disposal, and a flourishing export and import trade. Indicating a willingness to take the Karin B in tow to a British port and dispose of its cargo here might not be popular; it might win a new junior minister few plaudits. But it is a practical proposition which British industry could handle, even if its politicians could not.

PAYING THE POSTMAN

Special extra payments in the first year to recruits at a few selected post offices in the South-east do not, on the face of it, seem the stuff to set union blood running. They certainly cannot justify halting the nation's post.

The need to improve pay for recruits in areas with high living costs or better-paid job opportunities is hardly in dispute. But these special payments are viewed by the postal workers' leader, Mr Alan Tiffin, as the thin end of the wedge. The thick end, he fears, would bring general regional pay differentials and local pay bargaining.

Pay flexibility on a regional basis is anathema to trade unions, particularly in the public sector. In part, this harks back to the factory closures of the early eighties, when lower pay in areas of high unemployment was put forward as a way to price people back into jobs. This was an unpopular thesis for low-paid workers.

The situation is now reversed. Employers want to pay selectively higher pay in areas where it is impossible to recruit people to essential lower-paid jobs, or, as in the Post Office's case, keep them when they have been recruited. This problem is not confined to the postmen of Guildford. It applies equally to teachers in Hackney, to the staff of Broadmoor in Berkshire and to nurses in all sorts of places. It has brought a 35 per cent pay premium for clerks in central London.

It is not hard for unions to feed disgruntlement over such payments, which usually benefit a minority in jobs that carry nationally low pay. In the case of the Post Office's officially named Difficult Recruitment Area Supplements, they do not apply to existing established staff in the offices affected. Envy is therefore mixed with a sense of injustice.

THE OLD DICTATOR

On Monday Libya's ambassador to France was denouncing the IRA. Within hours Colonel Gaddafi himself was criticizing his own revolutionary committees. The pronouncements of Libya's ruler for 19 years are as unpredictable as ever.

It is important not to be deceived by Colonel Gaddafi's increasingly frantic efforts to sanitize his regime. He clearly did not like hearing the statements that Libya had armed the IRA for its latest round of atrocities in Ulster. In recent months Gaddafi has tried to cultivate a new image for himself as a champion of freedom and tolerance.

Earlier this year pictures were flashed round the world of him sitting astride a bulldozer, knocking down the walls of a Tripoli jail. Gaddafi's message was that in modern Libya prisons were a relic of the past. He denounced arbitrary arrests.

Then he gave a repeat performance. Two months later, destroying a police post on the Tunisian border. Libyans, as part of the wider Arab nation, were not restricted by territorial boundaries, trumpeted the Tripoli press. Sure enough, visas were soon being issued for foreign travel, with foreign currency too.

To complete his new programme of *perestroika*, Gaddafi released further funds to restock depleted supermarkets with consumer goods. He also tried to enter into the spirit of growing co-operation between countries in the Maghreb by signing agreements with both Tunisia and Algeria.

But few were deceived. They realized he was fighting for his political life after his popularity had fallen to an all-time low. They blamed him for creating a situation where Libya had become a pariah among nations. They were shocked by the antics of murderous revolutionary committee members, dismayed that the United States had been driven to bomb Tripoli and angry over the losses in a war fought for his personal glory in Chad.

Meanwhile the country's economy was being

mismanaged, with depleted oil revenues being used to buy arms from Eastern Europe. Little foreign exchange was left for even essential imports.

Yet as the political inertia after the American raids demonstrated, no one was prepared to overthrow him. What is now clear is that the Libyan leader relied on his revolutionary committees to maintain his authority. They were happy to oblige because without him they were nothing.

After a period out of the limelight, Gaddafi emerged last year as a weakened but obstinately resilient leader. Realizing that he was not likely to relinquish power, neighbouring countries encouraged him to alter the shape of his regime. Algeria's President Chadli Bendjedid took the lead in offering Gaddafi an entrée back into the Arab fold through unity between their two countries. Algeria also acted as the conduit for talks between Gaddafi and opposition leaders.

Gaddafi's rapprochement with the Libyan opposition was a kite that flew for some time, but is now grounded. The idea of closer relations with the Arab world has more substance. Links with Algeria and Tunisia are predictably troubled, but Gaddafi is determined to make the most of his return to Arab credibility. He enjoys, for instance, the chance to mediate once more between various Palestinian factions.

In the course of all this the Libyan leader has sometimes been forced to denounce the excesses of his revolutionary committees. At one stage, with his talent for the political unexpected, he threatened them with the creation of a political party. But as has been shown by continued Libyan support for terrorism not only in Ireland, but in West Africa and the Pacific as well, the committees still maintain their influence. He cannot get rid of them, nor can they get rid of him. Gaddafi remains a vain, old-fashioned dictator whose unpredictability is curiously predictable.

Preparations for next carnival

From Mr Dudley Fishburn, MP for Kensington (Conservative)
Sir, Nottingham Hill's carnival turned out to be uneventful but fun (except for those poor residents whose homes lie along the route). Large quantities of egg should be seen on the faces of those who predicted trouble, often with a certain amount of glee.

London's blacks have no desire for it. What they want, and are increasingly if belatedly getting, are jobs without prejudice, fair policing, and a stake in Britain's new-found prosperity. Unfortunately, many black leaders (some of whom declared the carnival a tinderbox) are dogmatically aligned to the left of the Labour Party. They are faster the trades union bosses of a decade ago, full of fire, but the troops have gone off in a different direction.

The task of the carnival the morning after is to set its house in order. The organisation needs to be reorganised as a charity with proper accounts, with a blood from the local black business community, with more commercial sponsorship for the bands (well done, ICI) and with a year-round black chief executive.

There was disappointment at the missed chance that a well-run carnival would have given to inject some prosperity into one of the least-advantaged pockets in London. Carnival is the legitimate focus of black aspiration and celebration. It deserves an organisation fit for that role.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY FISHBURN,
House of Commons,
August 30.

Snowdonia pipeline

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones
Sir, As a former public gas man I am keen to see the controversy with the public CEBG. But the record demands I do.

In the mid-1950s we of the then responsible Wales Gas Board laid a high-pressure gas pipeline along the North Wales coast. It went inland through some of the loveliest scenery in the Snowdonia National Park. It was so effectively buried, lost to sight without trace, that we had to commission an architect to design small marker posts placed discreetly at intervals along its route. Our technique was later followed by the oil and water as well as the gas industries.

So I must find myself in total support of the conservators and friends of Snowdonia (letters, August 16, 25) in opposing the CEBG's present proposals.

We could have hoped that the CEBG would responsibly recognise that the unspoiled beauty of Snowdonia is every bit as valuable a British asset as the required investment cost to them of burying the pipes.

Yours faithfully,
T. MERVYN JONES (Chairman,
Wales Gas Board 1949-70),
As from: Erw Hill,
38 Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff,
August 25.

Motorway dangers

From Mr Fergus J. F. O'Mahony
Sir, Surely if the Chinese method of improving safety on motorways which is recommended by Miss Rowlands (August 25), namely by displaying at the locus in quo giant photographs of the dead and injured, were emulated here, many a hapless driver, say on the M25, might himself at breakfast time and in a state of revulsion at the sight, lose his concentration and end up himself being photographed and exhibited the next day. And so on.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. F. O'MAHONY,
St Margaret's House,
18/20 Southwark Street, SE11,
August 25.

Off to work

From Mr E. M. Behrens
Sir, I have an office which is directly over a JobCentre. Since a fortnight ago it has been a policy of only opening at 10 am for three days a week and the effect of this is that anybody who wants a day's work is not available to start until 11 am. This causes unhappiness for the few men who are trying to obtain a day's work.

Is it really the optimum policy? Sincerely,
E. M. BEHRENS,
Ionian Securities Limited,
92/94 Borough High Street, SE1,
August 24.

Lessons to learn

From Mr Michael Austin
Sir, Your correspondents (August 11, 24, 26) who advocate that people in industry should learn the languages of their foreign customers fail to take into account the practical difficulties.

For 20 years I was the publications manager of a small engineering company which is typical of many companies involved in exporting. During this period we exported to Algeria, Argentina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Holland, India, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Zimbabwe.

Which languages do your correspondents suggest I should have learned?

Usually our customers spoke good English, and in many cases had attended technical colleges where the tuition was entirely in

Perils of living beyond our means

From Mr H. E. Wall
Sir, At the age of 85 I remember all too well the terrible depression and unemployment of the late twenties and early thirties. In some respects we seem to be in a similarly precarious economic situation today, except that some business people and politicians, "whistling in the dark", try to cheer us up with news of an economic boom. Of course the "spending spree" produces an air of prosperity.

It seems to me, however, that the economic and industrial collapse of the twenties and thirties was due partly to a reckless dependence on the extension of credit through the developing acceptance of the hire-purchase system by an inexperienced public, including a business community assuming that the demand for goods, stimulated by this new system of buying by hire-purchase would go on increasing. Too much credit, then as now, encouraged industrialists to be over-optimistic about the prospects of expansion.

I suggest that, with the fashion now so widely followed of use of credit cards, the present boom in the economy is a false one. The frightening gap between exports and imports just announced should be a grim warning.

All right, say I'm old-fashioned, that I'm in my second childhood, but Charles Dickens and his Mr Micawber had a point. We as a nation are living beyond our means. We are not sufficiently mature or educated in economics. Credit cards can promote short-term prosperity, but, used too optimistically, this new fashion is a path leading to an economic precipice.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. WALL,
Pennyfarthings,
Wistanstow,
Craven Arms, Shropshire,
August 25.

From Mr T. W. Kent
Sir, Once again the mortgage interest rate looks set to rise. Base levels of 13 and 14 per cent are envisaged which will no doubt cause mayhem to many people who borrowed at less than 10 per cent. Why is it the consumer who always has to bear the inadequacies of the providers when it comes to money matters?

Since my wife and I decided in February that we would start a family, our income will be cut in half in November when, all being well, our first child is due. If I work harder and longer still, and if interest rates don't go up then, our finances will only be "in the pink" at the end of each month. If interest rates change as forecast, then I, like many others, will find it very difficult to maintain the repayments on my house. Who knows, maybe it will have to be sold.

Should that point ever be reached, then as provider for my family (no sexism intended) I will have failed them.

What price other people's failings? I am yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY KENT,
North Road,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
August 26.

From Mr Simon Kverndal
Sir, It seems to be accepted that the boom in consumer spending is primarily responsible for the huge trade deficit and the problems of over-inflation in the British economy. Rises in interest rates may well cool down the economy, but this is likely to squeeze industry very hard; the demand boom will slow down at the same time as borrowing costs increase.

Credit controls are unlikely to be effective; if people want to borrow money it will be prac-

tically impossible to stop them. The better solution, surely, is to encourage private savings.

A new issue of National Savings Certificates at very attractive rates is one way savings could be encouraged. I should like to suggest an additional attraction. In spite of Government protestations that there has been considerable increased spending in real terms, public opinion seems to favour much greater expenditure on the health service.

A special issue of "health service bonds", with the money so raised to be dedicated to increased expenditure on our hospitals, is a convenient solution. Although only much smaller sums could realistically be involved, other institutions, such as the Arts Council or the Sports Council could benefit by similar issues.

Such bond issues should not upset the Chancellor's overall strategy on taxation and public expenditure. On the contrary, they should encourage investment where people want to see it most rather than wasting our current prosperity on a flood of imported consumer goods.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON KVERNDAL,
48 Ebury Street, SW1.

From Mr P. M. Ingram
Sir, Over the past few months charge and credit card companies have reported record borrowings from their card holders. This, I understand, is the main driving force behind the consumer boom.

I also understand that most credit cards have a rule that a minimum of 5 per cent of the outstanding balance be paid back in any one month. If this level was increased to say 25 per cent of the outstanding balance, I am sure this would soon put a stop to the over-use of credit cards for consumer purchases and bring about the reduction in the consumer boom that the Government so desires.

Interest rates could then be lowered to the benefit of industry, without the knock-on effect of stimulating a consumer boom and hence inflation. Yours faithfully,
P. M. INGRAM,
27 Braeside Avenue,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
August 26.

'Last Temptation'

From Mrs Maria Goldberger
Sir, As a Roman Catholic I am glad that Cardinal Hume did promptly and unequivocally ask Catholics not to see the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*, as a protest against its distorted portrayal of the life of Christ.

What qualifications has Mr James Ferman, director of the British Board of Film Classification — whose comments amounted to a virtual endorsement of the film (report, August 26) — to judge whether it is or is not offensive to Catholics? He should have consulted the experts, as is the general practice in all other fields.

The Catholic expert — Cardinal Hume — gave a clear answer that the film is offensive. As a Roman Catholic I am grateful that Cardinal Hume spoke out. Yours sincerely,
MARIA GOLDBERGER,
20 Albion Gate, W2,
August 26.

From Professor Douglas C. Spanner

Sir, Now that *The Last Temptation of Christ* has been declared acceptable for public showing are we at liberty to assume that similar fictional films about Mohammed or The Buddha would be acceptable? Yours,
DOUGLAS C. SPANNER,
Ivy Cottage, Main Street,
Grove, Wantage,
Oxfordshire,
August 26.

An axe to grind

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly
Sir, My patriotic wife, intent on improving the balance of payments, has started buying British rather than Danish bacon.

I regard the former as less palatable; it is usually cut thicker and I find it tough to chew. For a geriatric with ageing teeth who was brought up to believe in A. P. Herbert's dictum "that an Englishman's breakfast is bacon and eggs" and definitely not "the windy wet rolls" common at the other end of the Channel tunnel, patriotism can be taken too far.

Cannot British farmers do better? Yours sincerely,
LOUIS LE BAILLY,
Garlands House,
St Tudy,
Bodmin, Cornwall,
August 19.

Ashton recalled

From the Editor of The Dancing Times
Sir, Frederick Ashton did indeed appear with the Cremorne Company, as Fred Ashton, in 1926 as Paul Payne notes in his letter (August 25). It should be made clear, however, that it was at the invitation of Cyril W. Beaumont (1891-1976) the ballet historian and bookseller, not Binkie (Hugh) Beaumont of H. M. Tennant fame.

Cyril Beaumont's bookshop at 75 Charing Cross Road was a mecca for dancers and it was in the shop that he first encountered Ashton. "a rather shy, nervous young man" as he was to write later. It was on the advice of Beaumont and his wife Alice that Ashton first sought out Massine.

Yours faithfully,
MARY CLARKE,
Editor, The Dancing Times,
Clerkenwell House,
45-47 Clerkenwell Green EC1,
August 26.

Charitable needs on Continent

From Baroness Cox
Sir, I have just taken a truckload of medical supplies to Poland. The situation there is catastrophic. Many essential medicines and items of equipment are frequently not available, including antibiotics, analgesics, cytotoxic drugs, incubators for the new-born, respirators for intensive care, and numerous small but crucial items such as needles, syringes, surgical gloves, cotton wool, incontinence pads... the list is too long to print. In one major city, surgeons could not operate because there were no intravenous fluids.

Health problems are exacerbated by environmental pollution: healthy foods, such as fruit, are often prohibitively expensive; many children suffer from vitamin deficiency, but mothers in Warsaw were recently advised not to give children carrot juice because carrots are polluted by chemicals.

In several cities unhealthy food and working conditions are reflected in dramatic increases in pathological births; in one major city a recent study found no mother with a normal placenta. At the other end of life, life expectancy for men has recently dropped from 70 to 65.

Medical Aid for Poland Fund (MAFP) saves many lives. This was its 18th truck; its total aid over the past few years now exceeds £10 million. Great care is taken to ensure that the aid reaches those most in need. But, like all charities, it runs on faith and a shoestring.

Would it be possible for a tiny fraction of ODA (Overseas Development Administration) resources to be given to charities such as MAFP which take aid to countries on the European Continent, whose health needs now resemble those of developing countries? This would be a valuable and efficient use of resources; it would also be a much-valued symbolic support to fellow-Europeans to whom we owe so much, both historically and culturally. Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
House of Lords,
August 23.

'Last Temptation'

From Mrs Maria Goldberger
Sir, As a Roman Catholic I am glad that Cardinal Hume did promptly and unequivocally ask Catholics not to see the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*, as a protest against its distorted portrayal of the life of Christ.

What qualifications has Mr James Ferman, director of the British Board of Film Classification — whose comments amounted to a virtual endorsement of the film (report, August 26) — to judge whether it is or is not offensive to Catholics? He should have consulted the experts, as is the general practice in all other fields.

The Catholic expert — Cardinal Hume — gave a clear answer that the film is offensive. As a Roman Catholic I am grateful that Cardinal Hume spoke out. Yours sincerely,
MARIA GOLDBERGER,
20 Albion Gate, W2,
August 26.

From Professor Douglas C. Spanner

Sir, Now that *The Last Temptation of Christ* has been declared acceptable for public showing are we at liberty to assume that similar fictional films about Mohammed or The Buddha would be acceptable? Yours,

DOUGLAS C. SPANNER,
Ivy Cottage, Main Street,
Grove, Wantage,
Oxfordshire,
August 26.

An axe to grind

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, My patriotic wife, intent on improving the balance of payments, has started buying British rather than Danish bacon. I regard the former as less palatable; it is usually cut thicker and I find it tough to chew. For a geriatric with ageing teeth who was brought up to believe in A. P. Herbert's dictum "that an Englishman's breakfast is bacon and eggs" and definitely not "the windy wet rolls" common at the other end of the Channel tunnel, patriotism can be taken too far.

Cannot British farmers do better? Yours sincerely,
LOUIS LE BAILLY,
Garlands House,
St Tudy,
Bodmin, Cornwall,
August 19.

Pooter's law

From Mr Paul Bentley
Sir, This morning at breakfast, while reading your report (August 25) from the World Congress of Philosophy, in particular of Sir Karl Popper's theory of propensity which states that there exist weighted possibilities that are more than mere possibilities, but propensities to become real, I dropped a piece of toast, which landed — what else — on the buttered side.

I find myself in agreement with Sir Karl.

Yours Pooterishly,
PAUL BENTLEY,
25/9 Old Court Place,
Kensington High Street, W8,
August 25.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 30: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited James Johnston and Company of Elgin Limited, Newmill, Elgin (chairman, Mr J. Harrison) this afternoon.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Morayshire (Sir Iain Tennant).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

The Queen will attend a service of dedication of the roof and vault of the restored south transept of York Minster on November 4.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new Chapter House of Southwark Cathedral on November 9.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Birmingham Railway Museum on September 14 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the London and Birmingham Railway.

A thanksgiving service for Colin Huttenbach will be held at St Margaret's, Louthborough, at noon on Wednesday, September 7.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit Balmoral Castle, Scotland, on September 1, 2 and 3. She will also visit Special Unit, Glasgow, at 11.45, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Traditional Weatherwear, 10a Blairfinch Estate, Cumbernauld, at 2.45.

Birthdays today

Judge Michael Angley, QC, 73; Vice-Admiral B.T. Brown, Admiral President-designate, RN College, Greenwich, 54; Mr Roy Castle, entertainer, 56; Sir James Glenister, chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, 67; Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, 73; Judge de Piro, QC, 69; Air Marshal Sir Edward Gordon Jones, 74; Mr Larry Grayson, entertainer, 58; Mr Clive Lloyd, cricketer, 44; Professor Sir Bernard Lovell, former director, Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, 75; the Rev Joseph McCulloch, 80; Mr Bryan Organ, painter, 53; Mr Izhak Perlman, violinist, 43; Mr Justice Sheen, 70; Mr Cyril Spencer, former chairman, Waring and Gillow, 64.

Schools

Charterhouse
Oration Quarter begins today. R.B. Ewari-White is head of school and D.J. Austin is captain of football. The fourth Sir Robert Birley memorial lecture will be delivered by Mr Brian Rees on Tuesday, September 27. The Founder's Day dinner in London will be on Wednesday, December 7. Exet is from October 27 to 30 and the Quarter ends on Wednesday, December 7.

Colfe's School
Autumn Term begins on August 31 and ends on December 30 with carols at St Mary's, Lewisham. Half-term is October 24 to November 2. T.J. Barker is school captain. Lady Warnock will speak at Governors' Visitation on October 21. The combined staff conference with Prendergast School is on November 2. The Old Colfeians' reunion dinner is at the school on November 18. Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on December 1, 2 and 3. The first and second XV's play Old Colfeians' under-21 XV's on December 11. The Festival of Readings and Carols will be on December 19 in the School Hall.

Ellerslie School, Malvern
Autumn Term begins today. Mrs Elizabeth Barber succeeds Miss Pamela Binyon as Headmistress and Joanne Challen is head girl. Half-term is on October 15 to 23, and the school play (a joint production with Malvern College) *Oh, What a Lovely War!* will be performed in Malvern Festival Theatre on October 26, 27 and 28. The confirmation service will be held on November 26 and term ends on Friday, December 9.

Malvern College
Autumn Term begins today. Mr P. Nicholls, who has been vice-chairman of the council since

History of entertainment on a string



Mr Keith Allen, of the Puppet Centre Trust, with some of the Hogarth collection of puppets on show at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in east London until October 16. The puppets span 200 years and come from five continents. The Puppet Centre has launched a fund-raising campaign to buy the Hogarth collection (Photograph: David McNeelance).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Theophile Gautier, writer, Tarbes, France, 1811; Maria Montessori, educator, Chiaravalle, Italy, 1870; Wilhelmhelm, Queen of The Netherlands 1890-1948, The Hague, 1880; Fredrick March, actor, Racine, Wisconsin, 1897; DEATHS: Henri V, reigned 1413-22, Vincennes, France, 1422; John Bunyan, London, 1688; Charles Lever, novelist, Dublin, 1806; Arthur Phillips, first governor of New South Wales, Bath, 1814; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1867; Georges Braque, Cubist painter, Paris, 1963; Ilya Ehrenburg, novelist and poet, Moscow, 1967.

Shark shock

Researchers at the Natural World sealife centre in Poole, Dorset, believe they have discovered why sharks attack underwater telephone cables. They are said to be attracted to the electric current, which gives out signals similar to that emitted by their prey.

Guides facelift

The five-storey headquarters near Buckingham Palace of the Girl Guides, built in the 1920s and often described as a "mausoleum", is to be extensively refurbished to provide modern facilities.

1963, has retired from that position. He is succeeded by Mr J.R.D. Scriven. D. Elias is senior chapel prefect and D.T.T. Ball is junior chapel prefect. Mr Alan Duff succeeds Mr Michael McKeiv as Second Master, the Rev Keith Wilkinson becomes Senior Tutor, and Mr Frank Harris Director of Studies. Mr Christopher Hall becomes Housemaster of No 5 on the retirement of Mr John Blackshaw, who is appointed Master in Charge of Extra Curricular Activities. Mr Rory Boyle succeeds Mr Michael Brown as Director of Music and Mr Tim Newsholme succeeds Mr John Brown as Director of Art. Julian Peckers from Westbourne College, Bathurst, takes up the sixth-form scholarship and James Bruton from West House, Edgbaston, comes with the Malvernian Society Award. The school play, a joint production with Ellerslie, is *Oh, What a Lovely War!* and will be performed in the Festival Theatre on the nights of October 26, 27 and 28. Confirmation will be on Sunday, November 6 at 10.30am. The OM dinner will be held in Big School on Saturday, November 12. There will be an orchestral concert in Big School at 7.30 pm on Saturday, December 3 and the Advent carol service for parents and friends from the town will be held at 8 pm on December 7. Term ends on December 10.

St Edward's School, Oxford
Term starts today with Mr D. Christie as Warden, succeeding Mr J.C. Phillips who has retired. Raphael Lync is head of school. The Assessment Day for lower Vth will be on November 5 and the Assessment Weekend for lower Vth girls is on November 12/13, about 25 places will be offered to girls this year. Commemoration is on November 26. Term ends on December 10.

Marine fish farms
The Crown Estate Commissioners have been called upon to relinquish their planning control over the siting of marine fish farms by the end of the year. The Scottish Marine Fish Farming Trust says the Crown Commissioners should hand over control to local authorities.

In a letter to Lord Mansfield, the First Crown Commissioner, Mr Neil Jamieson, the trust's chairman, says: "It would relieve the commissioners of a chore for which they are heavily criticized and would have a minimal effect on their income."

At present, local authority planning powers extend only as far as the low-water mark. The location of marine fish farms has to be decided by the Crown Estate Commissioners, who are the owners of the sea bed.

Mr Jamieson said yesterday: "It would also force the trust has often given warnings of the dangers of

allowing fish farms to develop without proper control, and of their effect on wildlife. Recently, the trust said that thousands of seals were being shot illegally by fish farmers off the west coast of Scotland."

The Institute of Aquaculture at Stirling University is to embark on a three-year research programme on tropical prawns.

Finance of £216,000 is being provided by the Overseas Development Administration and will go towards work at the institute and helping a field research facility to be set up in southern Thailand.

The research will aid the boom in prawn farming in developing countries by providing reliable scientific knowledge.

Ecuador already exports 30,000 tonnes of marine prawns a year, and Indonesia 60,000 tonnes, earning much needed foreign currency.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.T. Ryan and Miss C.E. Dingle

The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Mr and Mrs Eric Ling, of Bromley, Kent, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cladder, of Oxford.

Mr W.H. Rose and Miss J.E.M. Whitehead

The engagement is announced between Henry, son of the late A.R. Rose, MC, and of Mrs Mary Rose, of Mombasa, Somerset, and Jane, daughter of the late James Whitehead, MC, and of Mrs Mary Whitehead, of Penally, Pembrokeshire.

Mr N.F.G. Troop and Miss S. Rump

The engagement is announced between Nigel, third son of Mr Donald Troop, of Less Lodge, Yalding, Kent, and the late Mrs Alison Troop, and Stephanie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Rump, of Otumotai, Tauranga, New Zealand.

Mr D.J. Twiss and Miss L.L. Dyer

The engagement is announced between Dominic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Twiss, of Chichester, Sussex, and Lucy, younger daughter of Judge and Mrs Mark Dyer, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr A.B. Camm and Miss M.J. Worboys

The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of Mr Alan Camm, of Brussels, Belgium, and the Marchesa D'Ayala-Walva, of Whitechurch, Shropshire, and Melanie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Worboys, of Putney, London.

Mr P.M. Chesterfield and Miss V.M. Fox Jackson

The engagement is announced between Philip Markham, elder son of Mr and Mrs Markham, James Chesterfield, of Otford, Kent, and Victoria Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John David Fox Jackson, of Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

Mr R. Parkhouse and Miss F. McKinnon

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Parkhouse, of Ringmore, Devon, and Fiona, eldest daughter of the late Mr Robert McKinnon, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Mr T.W. Richards and Miss C.D. Slade

The engagement is announced between Timothy Wayne, elder son of Mr and Mrs B.A. Richards, of 11 Aely-Drya Drive, Llandelli, Dyfed, and Catherine Diana, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Slade, of Five Acres, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr E. Sardinia and Mrs B. Sardinia

The engagement is announced between E. Sardinia, of Northampton, and B. Sardinia, of Hampshire, left estate valued at £23,652,039 net. She directed that all her paintings of national or artistic interest be offered to the Inland Revenue in lieu of tax payable on condition they be passed to the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, for permanent display. After several legacies she left the residue of her estate to the Inland Revenue for the treatment and welfare of disabled people. Left £197,914 net.

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Explosive comeback for toads

By Kerry Gill

A colony of the rare natterjack toad has been saved within the grounds of a Dumfriesshire explosives factory, the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) said yesterday. More than 1,000 natterjack toads emerged from purpose-built pools at Nobel's Explosives Company, Powfoot, which manufactures defence and aerospace materials.

Natterjacks, Britain's rarest amphibians, have lived around the factory for some years, but after the toad population was monitored by NCC staff, it was found that they had not been breeding successfully for several years because their existing pools were no longer suitable.

Nobel's management agreed to dig two special pools for the natterjacks to a specification laid down by the NCC. Their pools must be shallow, unshaded and sandy, and have next to no plant growth. Oddly, perhaps, the toads like their pools to dry out in warm summers.

The remaining natterjacks took to their pools and now at least 1,000 toads, no more than one centimetre long, have emerged from the two pools after thousands of tadpoles were produced. Only about 40 colonies of natterjacks exist in Britain and the colonies in Dumfriesshire are thought to be the only ones in Scotland.

The NCC said the factory's action had helped to save the colony and demonstrated how industry could help wildlife to adapt to unfamiliar surroundings.

Rare bees found

Mr John Elwy Williams, a beekeeper, has discovered a pair of Welsh black bees, which were thought to have died out in the 1920s. He is trying to breed them in hives in the garden of his home at Hall Street, Rhos, Wrexham.

Marriages

Brigadier T.D.V. Bevan and Mrs P.E. McCloy
The marriage took place at Newbury on July 30, 1988, between Brigadier Tim Bevan, of Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Penny McCloy, of Kintbury, Berkshire.

Mr G.P. Eade and Miss L.L. Benwell

The marriage took place on Friday, August 26, at Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh, of Mr and Mrs G.V. Wolf, of Disley, Cheshire, and Francis Curran, Maria Anne, only daughter of Herr Fritz Amey, and the late Frau Amey, of Freising, Bavaria.

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OBITUARY

DR WILLIAM SARGANT

Controversial British psychiatrist

Dr William Walters Sargent, who died on August 27, at the age of 81, was a controversial psychiatrist, whose ardent championing of chemotherapy and other physical forms of treatment of mental disorders brought him into often violent conflict with those who favoured a primarily psychoanalytical approach.

But his forceful proselytism sprang from a concern that the general practitioner - who is at the sharp end of the public's psychiatric problems - should be able to prescribe effective remedies. He made psychiatry more respectable by keeping it close to the medical model, and he did a great deal to make depression intelligible to GPs and therefore to make it a respectable illness.

Sargent often courted publicity - most notably, perhaps, in 1976, when he went on American television to tell audiences he was convinced that the kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst had been brainwashed by the Symbionese Liberation Front.

Sargent, who had been a key member of the defence team, as one of the world's authorities on brainwashing and mass manipulation, was swiftly dropped. But he continued to discuss the matter, on his return to London, in columns he wrote for *The Times*.

He also wrote for *The Times* on a variety of other matters, including one for which he can claim great credit - namely his long and hard-fought campaign from the 1930s onwards to banish for ever the notion that mental hospitals should be considered as merely custodial institutions.

His experience of mental hospitals, places "full of terrible suffering", in the years before the war made an indelible impression on him, and he determined to devote his life to altering the psychiatrist's concept of what could be achieved for patients.

The solutions he chose, which embraced drug therapy and electric shock treatment, drew opposition which was not decreased by his own pugnaic advocacy of his methods, and his belittling of those who voiced other possibilities. But his reputation was always one difficult to ignore, even among those who profoundly disagreed with him.

SIR JOHN MARSHALL

Sir John Marshall, PC, CH, who as New Zealand's Minister of Overseas Trade negotiated his country's agreement with the EEC when Britain joined the community, and who was a former Prime Minister, died yesterday while on a private visit to this country, aged 76.

A member of New Zealand's National Party, he had a remarkably long period as a Minister, uninterrupted, except for three years when Labour was in power, from 1949 till he was obliged to quit the premiership in 1972 after the party he then led went down to defeat in a general election.

He was only Prime Minister from February that year till November, due largely to the fact Keith Holyoake, his predecessor, held on to power almost to the General Election itself.

He had held the posts of Deputy Premier and Minister of Overseas Trade from 1960. He had been Attorney-General

and Minister of Justice before that.

Marshall represented essentially the enlightened conservative wing of his party. He was an intellectual in the National Party and government in the days when these were rarer than now.

His strength both as an administrator and in debates was that he managed always to be persuasive without ever being aggressive. Marshall's international outlook stemmed largely from his experiences fighting in both the Pacific and in Europe during the Second World War, and this outward-looking approach made him a good leader of the New Zealand team in the EEC negotiations.

Marshall himself commented only recently with satisfaction that the arrangement, outlined in a protocol with Brussels in 1973, for a lengthy transition period had proved its validity, with New Zealand butter still available to Britain's housewives in the

with their engineering training, more important in 1954 than ever before, in the dawn of the gas turbine and nuclear propulsion age as well as that of jet aircraft and missiles.

Happily for the Navy, Mason was one of the few officers who had been an ordnance specialist. In the gunnery school, HMS Excellent, he had met many of the Navy's most influential officers, and was respected as a man of vision, who put loyalty to the navy above any parochial engineering interest.

He had no hesitation in committing the Engineering Branch to the General List and accepting that the historic office of Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet would disappear. Admiralty fleet order 1/56, at the instigation of Admiral Mansergh, reiterated the words of Sir Francis Drake "All to be of a company".

It was in Mason's time as Engineer-in-Chief that the foundation stone of the Royal Naval engineering college at Plymouth was laid and he lived long enough to see his branch of the navy come together in fact as well as on paper, with their seamen colleagues in a way from which the Navy greatly benefited.

He also lived long enough to read that the son of a (E) contemporary, also an engineer, had been appointed to command Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, hitherto the privilege of seamen officers only.

He leaves his widow Dora Margaret, two sons and two daughters.



William Walters Sargent was born on April 24, 1907, and educated at the Leys School, and St John's College, Cambridge. His parents were staunch Methodists, and his interest in the movement never left him. As a young man he spent a good deal of his time in the British Museum reading about evangelism, and his research into the effects of Wesley's preaching gave him his first ideas about the nature of mass hysteria.

At St John's he did little work, preferring to concentrate on rugby. He never got a Blue, though he captained St John's and was reserve for the university. But his rugby earned him a place at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, where after a year he researched on anaesthetics, while playing for the hospital and for Middlesex.

Illness - depression combined with pulmonary tuberculosis - led to his resignation from the staff of St Mary's, but from a mood of despair was kindled an interest in psychiatry. He took a locum appointment at Hanwell Mental Hospital, where, the renowned Dr Connolly had started his campaign a century ago for abolishing the purely mechanical restraint of lunatics.

In spite of Connolly's impetus many psychiatrists still saw themselves in a purely custodial light, and the Hanwell experience deeply depressed Sargent, determining the course of his life.

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THE ARTS

مكتبة الفن

TELEVISION

City of dreams still in reverie

This year, the city of Glasgow has decided to advertise its regeneration: from the ashes of slum culture and mass unemployment have risen a brood of phoenixes, including the festivals of art and horticulture. These events temporarily made the city a Mecca for many of the British middle class.

Glasgow By the Way (Channel 4) was a timely documentary series, which concluded last night with a brief, rambling history of socialism in the city. The programme began with the May Day march, a tradition since 1889 and an inspiring testimony to socialism's epic status in the community.

In Glasgow, radicalism retains all the romance, mythology and glamour it lacks elsewhere: monuments, traditions, and reluctant working class heroes abound to renew the people's energy for the elimination of capitalism.

Although the number of orators at the May Day rally has dwindled from 30 to a handful, in the past 50 years, socialism in Glasgow shows no real sign of fading. The council has a massive Labour majority and, for the first time, every constituency in the area has a Labour MP in Westminster.

Clearly, however, the political texture of the community has changed. One man asked how young people were ever to learn their history when they had no job and therefore no union to teach them. A young man working at a children's play centre shamefacedly admitted that he enjoyed the work and found it rewarding, but complained that it was not a man's job.

The average Glaswegian believes his city to be an independent universe and passionately resents any necessity to relate to the alien elsewhere. Curiously, this documentary suffered from the same limitations and failed to relate events within Glasgow to those outside it.

Celia Brayfield

John Higgins meets Riccardo Chailly, who is bringing the Concertgebouw to London for the Proms

Disciplined romantic

After completing the run of performances of *La cenerentola* at Salzburg (surely the most enjoyable of the operas at this summer's festival), Riccardo Chailly has been with the Concertgebouw on a brief European tour before the Amsterdam season opens in the last week of September, when he officially takes over the title of Music Director from Bernard Haitink.

Orchestra and music director elect arrive in London this week for a pair of Proms. The first is on Friday and goes out on BBC2 as well as Radio 3. The second half is occupied by Bruckner's Symphony No 3, which is pretty familiar territory for both the Concertgebouw and for Chailly. Mozart's Piano Concerto K459, with Radu Lupu as soloist, may be the piece which puts to the test the new association between Chailly and the Concertgebouw. His advance comment was that he admired Lupu above all for the "crystalline purity of his playing" and that his own Mozart "may be in the Josef Krips tradition".

Chailly's first concert with the Concertgebouw was in 1985 and the programme was not exactly mainstream: Petrazzi, Busotti, Berio. "I didn't realize how much I was being tested out, then. The Concertgebouw players elect their own music director and they are particularly keen on the clarity of the beat given by the conductor."

"The first approach did not come until I had worked with them another three or four times, and again it was not an obvious programme: Gershwin, Poulenc. They voted on three occasions and the final ballot was between two conductors, both Italian. No, I am not going to tell you who the other was."

Chailly, aged 35, half ruefully admits to being the oldest of the Concertgebouw's young directors. Both Haitink and Van Beinum arrived at a more tender age. But the pleasure at being the first non-Dutchman in the post is obvious. He lacks little in experience: his father is a composer and son Riccardo was conducting opera by the time he was 19.

But the extrovert image of his twenties has now given way to something much more serious: the flowing locks and beard, which at one time made him look like Puccini's Rodolfo, have now been neatly trimmed, so that he could easily pass for a sharp-faced conductor. The eyes remain as blue and as penetrating as ever.

He must be one of the few among the new generation of Italian conductors to have studied with both Muti and Abbado. In 1968 he took piano under Muti, although this was a strictly supplementary course. Abbado was the real mentor and his interpretation of *Cenerentola* remains a very clear memory. "Claudio came to *Cenerentola* at the time of purification of Rossini, when the cleaning up of the scores, especially by Zedda, was paramount. "Now all that has been achieved I think



Serious: Riccardo Chailly, new music director of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, has packed musical experience into his 35 years

we can be a little less strict and perhaps more theatrical. If there is a tenor to hand who can deliver three top Cs in rapid succession then let him have them."

Covent Garden's next sight of Chailly, only his third visit, will be in 1992 with *Le Comte Ory* as part of a Rossini season and the likelihood of Ariza in the title role.

Part of the reason for the rarity of his visits is Chailly's extraordinary loyalty to whatever orchestra and opera house he is associated with. This month sees the release from Decca of Brahms's Symphony No 1 (421 295-2) and Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony (421 441-2) with the Concertgebouw. Schumann, Bruckner and more Brahms are to follow. And September brings

Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with the Bologna Opera House Orchestra and Chorus, plus Te Kanawa and Carreras (421 426-2).

Since Chailly's arrival as artistic director in 1986, Bologna has been transformed. It has been re-established as one of Italy's leading houses. Asked what his achievement has been over the first two years, he answers: "To make things work. I think we have the most stable house in the country. We have discipline, we start on time and, I am proud to say, not a single performance has been cancelled."

He could have added the advent of opera recordings, one of the things every house looks to its conductors to provide. Before

Chailly, Bologna scarcely figured: a *Favosita*, an *Anna Bolena* and that was about it. *Macbeth* came first—when it was London to see the film version of that recording?—and a *Fespi Siciliani* is to follow *Manon Lescaut*.

Amsterdam may benefit from the Bologna connection, but first its ears may well be turned to Zemlinsky. Chailly's current hero. "I have a late romantic nature and Zemlinsky is the hero of the *Späromantik*, the great bridge between Mahler and Schoenberg. People have tried to divert attention away from his work, but I want to restore it to the repertoire. I forecast that, by the year 2000, Zemlinsky will be as accepted as Mahler is today."

OPERA

Composer vindicated

Otello
Teatro Rossini, Pesaro

Rossini's *Otello* is a problem: its libretto is a laughable travesty of Shakespeare, yet it contains some of the composer's finest music. Cassio has been written out, Iago is Desdemona's scorned suitor, and the handkerchief is replaced by an unaddressed love letter; but there are some beautiful ensembles and a masterly, forward-looking last act whose dramatic momentum hardly falters.

The *Otello* that opened the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro demonstrated why the work was so popular last century, when it was a favourite *carretto di fantasia* of the greatest singers of the day. June Anderson's Desdemona had everything one could possibly ask: warm limpid tone that remained unfailingly beautiful even under the fiercest pressure, the technique to execute hair-raising coloratura with consummate ease, and a vivid stage presence.

Quite unlike the barnstorming type of singer who treats vocal display as an end in itself, Anderson has a miraculous ability to embellish the vocal line lavishly as a means of inflecting the musical phrase to heightened expressive effect. Rossini must have been cheering in his grave!

He would surely also have applauded Chris Merritt's eloquent declamation of Otello's recitatives, his honeyed *mezzo* voice, and his moving portrayal of a vulnerable spirit descending into despair, but would have shuddered at his gleaming top notes: Rossini had much gentler sounds in mind when he composed.

He once attended a performance of *Otello* in which the tenor Tamberlick interpolated a high C sharp, sung in chest voice, at the end of his duet with Iago. Anecdote has it that when the singer next visited the composer, the latter told his servant: "Show him in, tell him to hang up his C sharp with his coat and take it away when he leaves."

Merritt is a singer in the Tamberlick mould, which raises an important question: can Rossini's music make its intended effect when it was written for a lighter, more graceful vocal style than any tenor now adopts? Merritt's top notes are thrilling to modern ears, and the agility with which his dark, muscular voice copes with florid music is impressive; but it is often ungainly and rarely beautiful.

The part of Rodrigo was written for the legendary Giovanni David, and the mere contemplation of it would induce vertigo and panic in most tenors. Rockwell Blake sang it splendidly, sustaining the tessitura with little strain and displaying admirable fluency and delicacy in fast passages (although he, too, became stentorian above the stave). In this *Otello* Rodrigo plays a far larger part than Iago—yet another tenor—who was capably sung but hampered by Ezio Di Cesare.

John Pritchard conducted a lovingly shaped account of the score, giving the countless wind solos space to breathe and make their mark. He never attempted to force purely lyrical music to sound falsely dramatic, but whipped up plenty of sound and fury for the big finales. The RAI Turin Orchestra responded with more feeling than finesse.

As designer, Pier Luigi Pizzi provided sparse sets evocative of quattrocento Venice, where the action is laid throughout. As director, he extracted very specific characterizations from the principals—no mean achievement in such a stock cliché opera—and made the implausible action as credible as possible. He even managed to turn the first act finale, which on the printed page looks almost unstageable in its silliness, into a gripping piece of theatre.

Nigel Jamieson

Holly Hill reports from New York on a summer full of encouraging signs and reasons for optimism for the future of theatre in America

New World's new life

Foreigners and local naysayers proclaim the sick state of American theatre. Granted that we have serious problems, grant also that there are serious individuals and institutions working, with notable successes, to solve them.

Every summer, at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Connecticut, Artistic Director Lloyd Richards and a complement of outstanding directors, dramatists, actors and technicians, create stage readings of 12 plays and two screenplays, selected as the most promising from more than a thousand works submitted. Three out of the four which I saw this year were enriching.

As to the fulfilment of promise: this year alone, former O'Neill Conference playwrights David Henry Hwang won the Tony (for *M. Butterfly*), John Patrick Shanley took the Best Original Screenplay Oscar (for *Moonstruck*), and August Wilson won his third New York Drama Critics Circle Best Play citation for his third Broadway play, all of which were first aired in Connecticut.

Next stop was the PepsiCo Summerfare in Purchase, New York, for two events that added to a season already enhanced by foreign imports from Peter Brook, Ingmar Bergman, Tadeusz Kantor and Dublin's Gate Theatre. France's Compagnie Pandora yielded a riveting 95 minutes with *Elvire Jouvet* 40, based upon seven lessons on playing Elvire in Molière's *Don Juan*, given by Louis Jouvet in 1940, and conceived and directed as a theatre piece by Brigitte Jacques.

Imagine, if you will, John Barton working on, say, the first

AMERICAN THEATRE

Isabella-Angelo scene in *Measure for Measure* and guiding an initially unfocused actress into a virtuosic Isabella. Now translate that into French and you have Philippe Clévant's commanding Jouvet and Maria de Medeiros's chrysalid Elvire.

Summerfare also presented the first international performance of *Away*, by young author Michael Gow (whose first play was done in 1982 at the Australian National Playwrights Conference, modelled on the O'Neill's). Superbly directed, designed and acted by the Sydney Theatre Company, *Away* is vivid, humorous, poignant theatre.

Gow tells no less than eight stories—one for each of his finely drawn characters—interlocked by family and school relationships, by shifting positions in Australian society in the late Sixties, and by a allegory gracefully framed by Shakespearean excerpts.

In Massachusetts, the Berkshire Theatre Festival celebrated its 60th Anniversary Season with the world premiere of James Frawley's *Tusitala*. The Samoan sojourn of Robert Louis Stevenson (called *Tusitala*, "the teller of tales") by the natives) is presented as both romantic adventure and domestic drama.

Though never dull, at present George Schaefer's production is unbalanced by Julie Harris's forceful Mrs Stevenson, opposite a bland actor as the poet-novelist; the ambitious play needs focus.

Back in Manhattan, Ron Miller's *Checkmates* (Forty-Sixth Street Theatre) contrasts successful wedlock begun in the 1940s by a couple who pull together (Ruby Dee and Paul Winfield) and a 1980s deadlock between aspiring Yuppies (Denzel Washington and Marsha Jackson) too self- and career-centred to listen or to give.

Both couples have extra problems because they are black, but the play transcends race in this portrayal of pre- and post-war women's lib marriage. The root question of who is going to perform the role of nurturing homemaker is urgent in a work showing the consequences when home is where the heart is not.

Off Broadway, people were getting in line at 7am for tickets distributed 11 hours later for *Much Ado about Nothing* in Central Park, and there was a Monday night full house at the Second Stage for *The Film Society*. Set in a South African British boy's school in 1970, Jon Robin Bartz's drama showed the school mouldering on its centennial: "Have you seen the swimming pool lately? It looks like a bloody science experiment."

Two youthful teachers—one whose only care is exempt films and the other with liberal views—two conservative administrators, a female teacher and a patriarchal struggle for territory, and the irascible teacher—who was beautifully played by Nathan Lane—struggles to find his soul in a piquant play that shows us a great deal about white life in South Africa and indeed about human weaknesses, but without indulgence in moralizing.



American Australians: Rosemary Harris and Steven Vidler in Michael Gow's *Away*, seen at Summerfare

Hesitant Haydn

CONCERT

ECO/Tate
Albert Hall

It was only a short while ago that Jeffrey Tate was a darling of the musical and critical professions and could do no wrong. No longer, it seems, for he and the English Chamber Orchestra have lately received some lukewarm reviews, taking them to task in the South Bank Schubert and Britten series, for instance, for lack of imagination and even shoddiness.

This Promenade concert might not have been that bad, but, when it came to the real test, it was hardly that good either. The main challenge lay not in Bernstein's "Candide" Overture—a nice acknowledgement, crisply dispatched, of its composer's 70th birthday—and neither was it presented by two rather more profound works, in each of which the ECO was partnered by an excellent and influential soloist. It was Haydn who brought the difficulties and the chief disappoint-

ment in performance, with his Symphony No 101, "The Clock". Admittedly there were some impressive features in Tate's reading of this piece—the well-chosen, quickish pace of the Menuet—but the performance ultimately failed to convey the kind of spontaneous excitement or, in the tick-tocking Andante, the bland humour which the symphony requires.

The playing was sometimes inexact, though even that would have mattered less, had Tate combined his care for blend with some lively articulation. Put crudely, it needed more guts, less good manners, and (dare one add) a more reliable pulse, to check the orchestra. Mozart's A Major Piano Concerto, K488, received a lyrical and refined account, with Stephen Hough, clean in tone and execution, alive to the subtle nuances of phrasing and dynamics. The ECO generally responded well to his sense of the work's spaciousness, as they did to the nostalgia radiantly realized in Roberta Alexander's singing of Barber's poignant setting of James Agee's lines, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*.

Stephen Pettitt

RENAISSANCE SHAKESPEARE
at the Phoenix
AS YOU LIKE IT
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"Tam Hoskyns is a heart-touching Rosalind" *FT*
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INFORMATION SERVICE

A tale of Troy divine

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **AS YOU LIKE IT:** Geraldine McEwan's thrilling production for Renaissance with Tom Hanks, James Larkin and Kenneth Branagh. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-836 2294). Opens tonight 7pm, then in rep with *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Hamlet*. £25-£14.50.

★ **BLOOD BROTHERS:** Willy Russell's sentimental musical separated twins destroyed by the English class system; Jimmy Doolittle as their mother. Alhambra Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-867 1115). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45-9.45pm, Sun 2.30-5pm, and Sat 4.15-7pm. £25-£16.50.

★ **BUSBY D'AMBOIS:** David Threlfall plays the flamboyant hero in Chapman's Jacobean tragedy set in the French court of Henri III. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-836 7816). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.45pm, Sun 2.30pm and Sat 4pm. £24-£14.

★ **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF:** Lindsay Duncan and Ian Charleson in Tennessee Williams' drama of sexual frustration and inhibition in the Deep South. With Eric Porter as Big Daddy. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank SE1 (01-828 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, £25.50-£13.

★ **CAPTAIN CARVALLO:** Angela Thorne and Neil Stacy in revival of Denis Cannan's witty comedy to do with changed identities in the aftermath of war. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (01-858 7759). Train: Greenwich (BR - 15 mins from Charing Cross). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sun 2.30pm. £24-£10. Mats £2-£4.50.

★ **EASY VIRTUE:** Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1926 with Jane Farrow scandalizing her teenage husband's faithful country girl. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 6107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.15-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.15pm, Sun 2.30-5pm and Sat 4.15-7.15pm. £27-£12.50.

★ **GREENE:** Steven Berkoff's savage version of *Oedipus*, set in East London. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-867 1116). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.15-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.15pm, Sun 2.30-5pm and Sat 4.15-7.15pm. £25.50-£13.50.

★ **HAPPOOD:** Puzzling new Tom Stoppard play. Spies, physics and misunderstandings, with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Sally Kendal and Ian Gelfing. Uffington, SE10 (01-858 6404). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8.15-11pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm and Sat 4.15-7.15pm. £25-£15.

OUT OF TOWN

★ **HELLO AND GOODBYE:** Estlin Kohler and Anthony Sher as brother and sister in Fugard's absorbing play. Start of a two month season of RSC productions. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury & Islington. Tonight and tomorrow 7.30pm, £25.50-£8.50.

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC:** Gemma Craven and Emile Belcourt in magnificent staged revival. Theatre of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-838 5888). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm, £25.50-£20.

★ **TEACHERS:** John Godbar's end-of-term play within a play; funny with sad bits. Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street WC2 (01-838 3324). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8.15pm, Fri and Sat 9.15pm. £25.50-£11.50.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ And Then There Were None: Strand Theatre (01-838 2660)... ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1169)... ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-406 0072, cc 01-404 4079)... ★ Follows: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5399)... ★ 42nd Street Drury Lane Theatre (01-838 8108/9)... ★ Kiss Me Kate: Savoy Theatre (01-836 6111)... ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-838 6111)... ★ Life and Mr. C: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7813/4)... ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0909)... ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443)... ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-639 2244)... ★ Run For Your Wife: Criterion Theatre (01-830 3216)... ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8685).

FILMS

★ **Also on national release:** ★ *Adventure* featuring possible

★ **BAILEY'S FEAST:** (U) One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales. Incomparably transferred to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel. With Sørensen and a famous Danish chef who tests his skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45.

★ **COMING TO AMERICA (15):** Eddie Murphy as a pampered former prince who comes to America to select his own bride. A botched comic vehicle with a touch of sweetness; directed by John Landis. (116 min). Carlini Back Street (01-835 9772). Progs 2.30, 5.30, 8.10.

★ **Canon Premiere (01-370 2636).** Progs 2.15, 5.20, 8.15.

★ **Canon Premiere (01-838 0310).** Progs 2.10, 5.15, 8.20.

★ **Canon Premiere (01-838 0310).** Progs 2.10, 5.15, 8.20.

★ **Canon Premiere (01-838 0310).** Progs 2.10, 5.15, 8.20.

CLASSICAL TOP 20

- 1 Elgar: Cello Concerto Du Pré/HMV
- 2 Vivaldi: Four Seasons Hogwood/AAM, L'Oiseau Lyre
- 3 Albinoni: Adagio/Pachelbel: Canon BPO/Karajan, DG
- 4 Holst: The Planets BPO/Karajan, DG
- 5 Elgar: Cello Concerto Lloyd Webber/Menahim/RPO, Philips
- 6 Lloyd Webber: Requiem Domingo/Brightman/ECO, HMV
- 7 Elgar: Cello Concerto Du Pré/Barenboim, CBS
- 8 Schubert: Symphonies 4 & 6 Rattle/CBSO, HMV
- 9 Greg: Peer Gynt BPO/Karajan, DG
- 10 Beethoven: Symphony 9 BPO/Karajan, DG
- 11 Verdi/Donizetti: Arie Pavarotti, Decca Classical
- 12 Verdi/Puccini: Arie To Karavass, HMV
- 13 Schubert: Symphonies 1 & 8 Rattle/CBSO, HMV
- 14 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto Kondrashin/MPO, Decca
- 15 Mozart: Piano Concerto in E Flat Tene/ECO, Philips
- 16 Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture Solti/CBSO, Decca
- 17 Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture Dutoit/MPO, Decca
- 18 Mozart: Horn Concertos Tuckwell/ECO, Decca
- 19 Saint-Saëns: Carnival of Animals Dutoit/PO, Decca

Source: Music Week Research

WORD-WATCHING

GLIM
(b) To glimmer, glaze, or look at, the weak glare of the Tenebris-rout glaze glaze. "Glim me close up while I'm fresh and less like to settle round the TV screens before I start dancing."

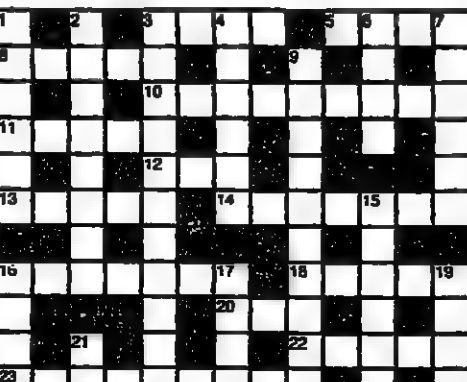
FARSANG
(c) The Persian mile, Arabic form of the ancient Persian parasang as encountered in Herodotus and Xenophon, the equivalent of about four of our miles. "From hence they reckon their way by farsangs."

ONOMASTIC
(a) Having to do with names, especially their origins and forms, from the Greek *onoma* a name. "Confused Willett: the sort of phony names an actor might take on. Willett must have been a nameless onomastic in Val's eye."

FILIPENDULOUS
(b) Hanging by a thread, like the sword of Damocles, chiefly botanical, from the Latin *filum* a thread + *pendulus* hanging.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1655

- ACROSS
- 3 Boggy area (4)
 - 5 Wild pig (4)
 - 6 Nutria (5)
 - 10 Staghorn (9)
 - 11 Brail (5)
 - 12 Electrically charged atom (3)
 - 13 Stunt (5)
 - 14 Germ free state (7)
 - 15 Snout beetles (7)
 - 16 Poppy seed drug (3)
 - 17 Cone bed (3)
 - 22 Hunt (5)
 - 23 Italian restaurant (9)
 - 24 Wild enthusiasm (5)
 - 25 Draught animal frame (4)
 - 26 American waistcoat (4)



- DOWN
- 1 Mountain north of Mt. Olive (6)
 - 2 Spectacularly dangerous object (8)
 - 3 Great number (12)
 - 4 Eye lens focus spot (6)
 - 5 Frenzied party (4)
 - 7 Wealth (6)

- 9 Unimpaired, emotional (6-2-4)
- 16 Local bigwig (6)

17 Origin (6)

18 Violent robber (6)

21 Yalp (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1654

ACROSS: 1 Meeting house, 9 Doorman, 10 Gaudin, 11 Nail, 12 Breakage, 14 Sun, 15 Podia, 16 Deb, 18 Catarract, 20 Spun, 22 Asai, 23 Implore, 24 Prefidential.

DOWN: 2 Emotion, 3 Temp, 4 Nonproductive, 5 Hogmanay, 6 Uvula, 7 Euse, 8 Adonis, 13 Appraise, 16 Diploma, 17 Banger, 18 Clamp, 19 Taste, 21 Snout.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

CAMBRIDGE: THE LONDON, LAST TWO WEEKS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

COLCHESTER: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

GLoucester: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Leeds: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Leicester: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

London: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Manchester: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Nottingham: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Sheffield: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Southampton: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Stoke-on-Trent: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Swansea: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Torquay: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Walsley: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Warrington: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Widnes: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Wigan: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

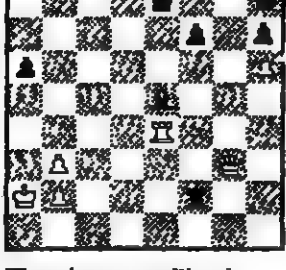
Wolverhampton: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

Wrexham: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

York: 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



The above position is taken from the game between Nunn (White) and Murshed (Black), played in the Commonwealth Championship, London Docklands, 1985. White plays and wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: Black wins with 1 Qx2+.

"NOT TO BE MISSED!"

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YEOMEN OF THE GUARD
A "delicious new production" by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets: £25-£10.

LAST TWO WEEKS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

TEACHERS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

BLOOD BROTHERS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

DRIVING MISS DAISY: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

THE SNEEZE: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

EXCLUSIVE VARNIS: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Tickets: £25-£10.

HOWARD BARKER'S NEW PLAY, *BITE OF THE NIGHT*, BEGINS PERFORMANCES FROM TOMORROW AT THE PIT IN THE BARBICAN. DESCRIBED AS BARKER'S "MOST CRAFT" WORK TO DATE, IT FOLLOWS THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, DESIRE, POWER AND SELF-DESTRUCTION OF DOCTOR SAVAGE, "THE LAST CLASSICS TEACHER AT A DEFUNCT UNIVERSITY". NIGEL TERRY PLAYS THE ACADEMIC WIFE, "IN A WILFUL SPASM OF FREEDOM," DISCARDS HIS FAMILY AND SETS OFF, WITH A WAYWARD STUDENT AS COMPANION, ON A MYSTICAL VISIT TO THE 11 DIFFERENT BUT IDENTICALLY LOCATED CITIES OF TROY OF ANTIQUITY. THEREIN THEY ENCOUNTER THE POET, HOMER, AND HIS CREATION, THE SOURCE OF ERAS: HELEN OF TROY. SHE IS PLAYED BY DIANE FLETCHER (REPLACING THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED JULIE COVINGTON, WHO WITHDREW FROM THE PRODUCTION "FOR PERSONAL REASONS"). IT IS THE FIRST HOWARD BARKER PLAY TO BE PRESENTED BY THE RSC AT THE BARBICAN SINCE THE THREE-PLAY SEASON, WHICH INCLUDED THE COMPARABLY VISIONARY *THE CARLE*, SEEN AT THE PIT IN 1985. DIRECTING FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE RSC IS DANNY BOYLE; THE CAST INCLUDES SEAN BAKER, DARLENE JOHNSON, JOHN CARLISLE, MARK DIGMAN, AND CLIVE RUSSELL. THE PIT, BARBICAN CENTRE, EC2 (01-638 8891). PREVIEW TOMORROW, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. IT OPENS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AND IS THEN IN REPERTORY. ALL PERFORMANCES OF THIS FOUR-AND-A-HALF-HOUR PLAY BEGIN AT 7PM; THERE ARE NO MATINEES. ALL SEATS ARE £28.50. Tony Patrick

Trio: Nigel Terry (with headband) as Savage and Diane Fletcher as Helen get to grips, with some help from David O'Hara as Hogbin

A MAN IN LOVE (18): An American movie star and a fledgling actress have a turbulent affair in Rome. A romantic drama from French director Diane Kurys; with Peter Coyote, Greta Scott, Jamie Lee Curtis. (110 min). Cannon Premiere (01-437 3571). Progs 1.00, 3.25, 5.50, 8.15.

★ **POWADGATH (U):** More of the same from the Koyaanisqatsi boys, director Godfrey Reggio and composer Philip Miller. A wordless whirlwind tour through images of planet earth (89 min). Cannon Classics (01-352 5086). Progs 2.00, 4.20, 7.20, 9.50.

★ **THE DARK: Kurt Weill's** legendary Broadway musical is given a concert performance by the Scottish Opera Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by John Mauceri as part of the Edinburgh Festival. Under the baton of John Mauceri (01-225 5756). 8.10pm, £25-£11.

★ **PRINCE - SIGN 'O' THE TIMES:** Concert film with Shereena Easton (85 min). Donation (01-590 9962). Progs 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30.

★ **CONCERTS**
MORNING
★ **OVCHINIKOV UNDERTAKING:** Vladimir Ovchinnikov, last year's First Prize winner at Leeds, undertakes an extremely testing programme, 10 of Liszt's Transcendental Etudes and Rachmaninov's eight Etudes-Tableaux Op 33. Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (01-225 5756), 11am, £25-£7.

★ **ALL WALTON:** William Walton's Violin Sonata is played by Julia Frappe (violin) and Nicholas Durcan (piano). St Martin-in-the-Fields, Ludgate Hill, London WC4 (01-248 8054), 1.15-1.45pm, free.

★ **CONCERTS**
EVENING
★ **FROM LEIPZIG:** In Richard Strauss's symphonic poem *Die Morgenstimmung* and Wagner's *Symphony No 3*, the Scottish and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is conducted by Kurt Masur and in Rachmaninov's *Paganini* and in Rachmaninov's *Paganini* by Vladimir Ovchinnikov. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-378 4444), 7pm, £25-£13.

★ **TALLIS TIME:** Conducted by Peter Phillips, the Tallis Scholars sing Lobo's *Antiphona* (1987), Palestrina's *Lamentations* for Maundy Thursday and Victoria's *Officium Defunctorum*. St Paul's, Whitehall Place, Knightsbridge, London W1 (01-589 8212, cc 01-378 4444), 10pm, £25-£13.

★ **CONCERTS**
LUNCHTIME
★ **ALL WALTON:** William Walton's Violin Sonata is played by Julia Frappe (violin) and Nicholas Durcan (piano). St Martin-in-the-Fields, Ludgate Hill, London WC4 (01-248 8054), 1.15-1.45pm, free.

★ **CONCERTS**
EVENING
★ **FROM LEIPZIG:** In Richard Strauss's symphonic poem *Die Morgenstimmung* and Wagner's *Symphony No 3*, the Scottish and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is conducted by Kurt Masur and in Rachmaninov's *Paganini* and in Rachmaninov's *Paganini* by Vladimir Ovchinnikov. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-378 4444), 7pm, £25-£13.

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EVENING
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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Border Television shows pre-tax gain

Border Television, the Carlisle-based independent TV contractor, is to pay a final dividend of 1.05p a share, making 1.7p for the year to the end of April. Last time the payment was 1.4p. The station's pre-tax profits have increased from £503,000 to £716,000, before taking account of writing down the company's investment in Super Channel by £122,000. Earnings per share are 4.2p against 3.4p last time.

Border, which has criticized the flow of advertising revenue southward in the past, says that the prospects for this income remain uncertain, but there were encouraging signs. Programme production commissions already received justify the investment in new technology, the board adds.

London Finance slip

London Finance and Investment Group, which has stakes in Western Selection and NMC Investments, where the Saatchi brothers have control, has reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £301,000 to £287,000 in the first half of 1988. The directors blame the quieter stock market conditions. There was also an extraordinary loss of £340,000.

Offshoot sold by Siebe

Siebe, the controls and engineering group, has sold its British Gas and Oil Burners subsidiary for £711,000 in cash. The purchaser is Bray Technologies, the gas and electric heating specialist company, which is quoted on the Granville & Co over-the-counter market. In addition, Bray is repaying a £254,000 loan owed by British Gas and Oil Burners.

Monotype takes GBT

The Monotype Corporation is paying £1.6 million in new shares for the outstanding 24.9 per cent minority stake in GBT Technologies, the maker of typesetting systems for the printing industry. Monotype, which itself makes laser-based typesetting systems, acquired its majority interest in GBT in July 1986, shortly after its USM debut. The move was almost a rescue and Monotype paid just £220,000 for its initial stake, based on performance targets.

These targets had all been met, said Mr John Holloway, the finance director, and the group was hopeful of export orders for GBT, particularly in the US. Management accounts suggest pre-tax profits from GBT of around £600,000 for the year to end-June.

Ryan Hotels trims losses

Ryan Hotels, the Irish hotel group, cut its losses by £254,000 (£460,414) to £169,000 in the six months to April, on a turnover, marginally down to £125.91 million. There was an operating profit of £12,000 against a loss of £123,600 last year. Ryan announced an interim dividend of 0.5p per share, unchanged from last year.

IJ Dewhurst up to £3.2m

IJ Dewhurst, the clothing manufacturer and one of Marks and Spencer's main suppliers, yesterday announced an increase in pre-tax profits to £3.22 million from £2.8 million, on sales up over 17 per cent to £41 million, in the six months to July 15. Earnings per share rose from 1.94p to 2.16p. An interim dividend of 0.27p, against 0.24p, was declared.

Triplex sells foundry

Triplex Lloyd, the engineering and foundry group, has agreed to sell an 11-acre site in Derby for £200,000. The site is the former Parker Foundry. Production was transferred to the Lloyd steel foundry in Burton-on-Trent in January. Triplex said the sale of similar surplus sites would generate almost £1.5 million in cash in the current year which ends next March.

The group has also placed an order with Glasstech of Ohio for the supply of glass-to-metal equipment for its subsidiary Thermovitrine, a maker of double glazing which is based at Hyde in Cheshire. The equipment, which should be operational by early next year, will cost more than £1 million.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		Rockstar
BMSB (118p)	118-1	Saunderson Elec (130p)
Bucknell Asset (110p)	110-1	Savills (125p)
Bulker Co (123p)	151-2	SCFInfo
Canaccord Inv	48	Sevenson-R (80p)
Chemsig Grp (145p)	106	Sonic Tape (15p)
City Gate	318-3	Steeday
Colroy (150p)	148-3	Tamsons
Computer People	190	Tams (Lohn) (85p)
Conroy Plc	140	Thornons (120p)
Erosion Group (165p)	166	
European Colour	27-4	RIGHTS ISSUES
Heritage (55p)	143-20	Ambar N/P
Hermes (100p)	143-20	Chengnan Lab N/P
Hi-Tech Sports	147-4	REH Grp
Jackson Group	112	Pleasureman N/P
Lincol. Court (115p)	80-2	Tape N/P
Lowndes Van	80-2	Unimor Soc N/P
Nat Telecom	134-2	Witnrow N/P
Palmerston Hodge	210-15	(issue price in brackets).

Gulf Guarantee Trust Limited

Bankers

Gulf Guarantee Trust Ltd. is an authorised institution under the UK Banking Act 1987

Financial Highlights - for year ended 31 March 1988

	31 March 1988	31 March 1987
TOTAL ASSETS	34,524,999	34,724,785
Cash in hand and balances at banks	23,828,434	20,543,488
Advances	9,387,902	12,219,786
CURRENT LIABILITIES	23,564,281	23,014,879
Current, Deposit and other accounts	22,599,521	22,573,949
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	10,803,946	10,781,937
PROFIT Before Provisions	446,499	683,233
Provisions	(8,307)	(352,291)
PROFIT Before Tax	438,192	330,942
PROFIT After Tax	272,009	188,522
PROPOSED DIVIDEND	250,000	—

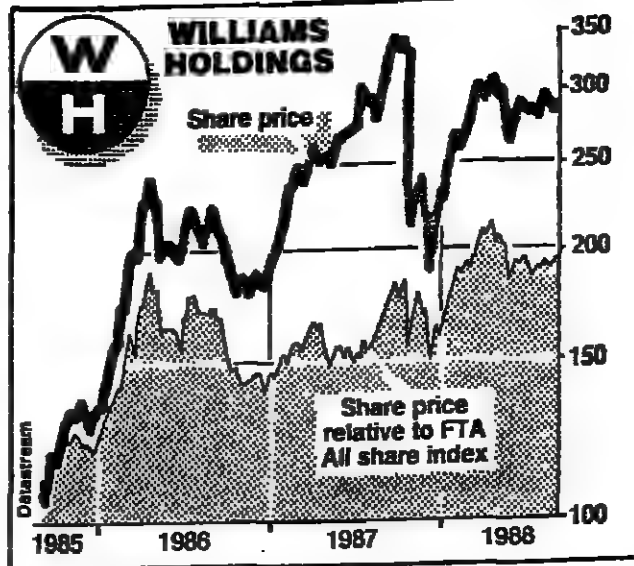
Gulf Guarantee Trust Ltd. is pleased to announce strong growth in profits in the year to 31 March, 1988 and its first dividend since the institution was restructured in 1982

Kamal Khan
Chairman

Dividend will be paid after 1st September 1988, at the Registered Office: Suite 22, 140 Park Lane, London W1Y 3AA. Tel: 01-493 1969. Fax: 01-409 1251. Telex: 25946.

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Glossy profits picture at Williams



The paint is not yet dry on Williams Holdings' recent handiwork, so it is not possible to display the effect that acquisitions had on the interim figures.

But since integrating and streamlining acquisitions is much of what Williams is about, such an exercise is relatively meaningless.

Suffice it to say that fully diluted earnings per share, before exceptional items, rose 25 per cent at the half-year stage. About £21 million, or two-thirds of the rise in profits, came from the international paints businesses, not part of Williams in the comparative period.

The integration of Crown and Berger is still under way, and the full benefits of the cost savings of up to £20 million a year will not come through until 1989.

The sale of unwanted bits of Berger has raised more than £100 million and there are further savings to be gained by squeezing working capital. So Williams will be ungaraged even after paying for Smallbone and Newage Transmissions. This gives Williams plenty of scope to make cash acquisitions in a bear market.

Underlying trading is strong in all divisions both in Europe and the US, with record order books and widening margins.

In established operations such as Rawlplug and Swish, Williams continues to develop the business by launching new

products and investing in cost saving plant.

The acquisition of Smallbone, although small, provides sound opportunities in the US. There is also scope for cross-fertilization of products and marketing techniques between Smallbone's kitchen, bedroom and bathroom ranges and Williams' existing conservatory, blind and beds businesses.

Smallbone adds to the prestigious brand names in the Williams fold, vastly undervalued in the balance sheet. If included they could add £1 billion of intangible assets.

Sharpe & Fisher hopes for £50m from Sandfords sale

By Alexandra Jackson

Sharpe & Fisher, the building supplies and do-it-yourself retailer, is putting Sandfords, its DIY business, up for sale.

Sandfords, the country's eighth largest DIY group, in an industry dominated by B&Q, Homebase and Payless, could fetch at least £50 million and may attract a Continental buyer.

Mr Charles Fisher, chief executive of Sharpe & Fisher, said: "Sandfords has been a phenomenal success, reporting 40 per cent compound growth. But as one of the last regional companies, we do not

have the financial resources to develop it into a national chain.

"There is further growth in the DIY market and by selling now, we can maximize Sandfords' value for our shareholders and hope to secure a safe future for its employees.

"Given the interest shown in the business over the years, we thought it best to treat the sale openly," he added.

Sandfords operates from 15 outlets averaging 35,000 sq ft in the South and South-west of England, and has plans to open a further four. In the half year to end-June, pretax profits, helped by mild weather

and improved operating efficiencies, were £1.6 million, up from £954,000 last time.

In the whole of 1987, Sandfords made £2.5 million on sales of £34.9 million. Net margins stand at 8.2 per cent.

Mr Fisher plans to retain the freeholds of the seven properties owned as well as £8 million of the proceeds. This he believes is sufficient to develop the building supplies business organically and by acquisition.

The proceeds of the sale will be distributed to shareholders after a reorganization of Sharpe & Fisher. Investors will receive a share in the

remaining business and a cash payment from the disposal to be treated as a capital gain.

Market commentators estimate Sandfords should fetch a premium price of up to £50 million, suggesting an exit p/y of about 20 times.

Sharpe's interim figures showed pretax profits up from £1.9 million to £2.8 million in the six months to end-June on sales up from £35.1 million to £41.9 million. The interim dividend was held at 1p pending a re-examination of the dividend policy at the year-end as future payments will be influenced by prospects for the remaining business.

Corah sells division to Courtaulds for £7.5m

Courtaulds, the textiles group, has bought the sock division of Corah, the Marks and Spencer supplier, for about £7.5 million.

The division made losses after interest and before tax of £44,000 in calendar 1987 on turnover of £15.3 million. The purchase is by the Courtaulds Clothing Brands subsidiary, which makes socks under the Wolsey and Rowley Group names.

The division's Leicester operation will be transferred to Courtaulds' existing operation there, enabling a large number of jobs at that business to be saved, said Courtaulds.

Plan approved

Shareholders in the Central & Sheerwood group have approved the reconstruction which sees an increase in its equity capital, and involves a £3.5 million loan from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Holdings to its engineering businesses. Central & Sheerwood is acquiring property interests from the Robert Fraser Group, which is subscribing for 29.9 per cent of the company.

£5m project

Kentish Properties, a specialist in residential developments, is investing £5 million in three, mainly commercial projects in Tower Hamlets, East London. The company owns two other large-scale residential investments, Burrell's Wharf, Docklands, which will accommodate 320 flats, and the Fairfield Work Factory, Bow, a development of 672 flats and houses.

HK funding

National Home Loans Corporation, the independent mortgage lender, yesterday signed a \$90 million (£53.1 million) short-term note purchase facility in Hong Kong. Citicorp International, the arrangers, said it is the first time a British company has borrowed from the Asia-Pacific markets to fund its domestic operations.

Baile buy

Food Industries, 50 per cent owners of Baile Foods, is buying the other half from Express Dairy's MacCormac Products division for around £1.85 million, satisfied by the issue of 1 million shares. Baile, a joint venture between MacCormac and Baileboro Co-op, made £17,118,000 (£609,921) pre-tax in 1987.

Petrofina fails

Petrofina, the Belgian oil group, failed to achieve a quorum of shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting called to approve a one-for-10 free share issue. Petrofina announced the issue on August 12. An extraordinary meeting planned for last April was postponed for the same reason.

Property deal

Inoco has sold a freehold office property in New Malden, Surrey, and a long leasehold office property in South-east London, for a total of £12.5 million. The consideration represents a surplus of £1.8m over the book value of the properties.

Reed sale

Reed International has completed the sale of North American Paper Group to the Canadian subsidiary of Japan's Daishowa Paper for £594 (£284 million) in cash.

Cocoa-price threat puts talks at risk

By Colin Narborough

The Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, has threatened to stay out of the price-stabilizing pact to be negotiated for the commodity, throwing the future of the new International Cocoa Agreement (ICA) into doubt.

The threat came from President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, the Ivorian leader.

World market prices are at a seven-year low as cocoa-growing nations prepare for pricing talks, to be held by the London-based International Cocoa Organization (Icoco) next Monday.

The ICA's current price support system, which sought to keep cocoa within an agreed price range, was suspended in March when producer and consumer members of Icoco failed to agree on the way forward.

The Ivory Coast has withheld cocoa supplies from the world market for more than a year because of depressed prices.

M. Houphouët-Boigny has pledged that his country will never sell cut-price cocoa.

Three months cocoa was trading at about £825 per tonne in London yesterday, well below the £1,150 level Ivory Coast has been asking.

● Herr Frieder Rottzoll, director of the West German Coffee Association, has called for the international pact on coffee export quotas not to be renewed when it expires in a year's time. If it is renewed, the producer countries' quotas should be revised, he said.

US buy for Hambros

Hambros, the merchant banking group, has bought Harry Roman & Co, a Los Angeles mergers and acquisitions company, for an undisclosed amount.

The move is part of Hambros' policy of building up an international corporate finance network to help it carry out cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Harry Roman will remain as chairman of the company, which was founded in 1946.

Barlow Clowes, time for pretence is over

It becomes more and more difficult for the Government to minimize its own role in the collapse of Barlow Clowes. Fresh documentary evidence unearthed by *The Times* shows that a number of grave problems existed in 1985 and these were well known to the Department of Trade and Industry at the highest level. Indeed, a letter written by a DTI official makes clear that the Secretary of State inclined to the view in the spring of 1985 that a licence should be refused to Barlow Clowes.

relied upon," says the letter of April 1985.

Later, a licence was granted under the auspices of a new secretary of state. But luckless investors who trusted their money to Barlow Clowes thereafter can legitimately ask how the DTI monitoring failed to prevent the irregularities which contributed to the collapse. The DTI can hardly pretend it was unaware of the background which suggests that if ever a firm needed careful scrutiny, then it was Barlow Clowes.

The department was also aware that the crashed investment firm had been trading illegally without a licence and continued to do so when the letter was written. Apparently this sorry state of affairs was tolerated on the questionable grounds that "investors' interests would best be served by avoiding any action which might lead to a collapse." Given that Barlow Clowes had at that time already pulled in many millions of pounds of savers' money, it was already late in the day to be getting tough over illegal trading. Worse, the letter makes plain that the Bank of England took the view at the time that Barlow Clowes operations were in breach of the Banking Act of 1979.

The department also had good reason to take a cautious view of the assurances given by the firm that it was well run and that clients' money was well safeguarded. "It appears that those assurances cannot safely be

Mecca must fight

Mecca Leisure's cheeky bid for Pleasurama, a company roughly three times its own size, was never going to be a bed of roses. Yesterday there was growing evidence that a number of key fund managers are not at all certain that it is a good idea. And since they may be called upon to underwrite a cash alternative, Mecca faces an uphill task.

Developments like this are a far cry from the heady days of October last year, when David and Goliath bids were frequent affairs and, seemingly, the more aggressive and daring the concept, the more the City supported it.

This means that Mecca has to satisfy the waverers on a number of points. It must dispel the image that Mecca needs the deal rather more than Pleasurama needs Mecca.

It has to answer the problem of the dilution in earnings likely to arise if the bid can be successfully fought.

Sound value in property

On the simple and simplistic view that what goes up must come down, shares in property companies ought to be looking vulnerable. Over the past 12 months, which of course includes the October market crash, property unit trusts and direct property investment have shown a clean pair of heels to equities or gilts. With interest rates at 12 per cent and still headed north, it would be easy to think the property bubble is about to burst. Leaving aside residential property, which tends to be financed on high levels of personal debt, this may not necessarily prove to be the case.

companies will be reaping the benefit of the recent boom conditions for some time. The lower yields seen this year suggest that shares in property investment companies such as Slough Estates and Land Securities in particular are selling at substantial discounts to likely year-end asset values. Morgan Grenfell estimates these at 35 and 29 per cent respectively. If interest rates have further to go, stocks like this appear to have admirable defensive qualities.

Unlike retail properties, which are directly affected by the Chancellor's unstated but real attempt to squeeze consumer spending, industrial property values can be expected to benefit from high levels of economic activity. The leading property companies have seen interest rate hikes like this before and tend to be soundly underpinned with fixed rate, long-term finance. They will therefore continue to benefit for some time to come from the significant rates of rental increase seen this year and last as reversions fall in.

Since the usual rent review pattern is five years, the leading investment

The rising cost of money is a far greater threat to property developers, unless like Rosehaugh and Greycoat, they have secured medium-term finance for their larger schemes.

It is property traders such as Mountleigh which will come under most severe scrutiny while investors await a clear indication of the impact of dear money on the speculative property market. In short, the quoted property sector should tend to polarize between the soundly financed investment and development companies on the one hand and the traders and those developers whose lines of finance are vulnerable to base rate changes on the other. But there is still excellent value in the sector for those willing to be choosy.

New NZ broadcasting plan

Wellington (AFP) — The New Zealand government said the country's television and radio services are to be deregulated, with the maximum level of foreign-ownership raised from five per cent to 15 per cent.

Mr Richard Prebble, the Minister for State-owned Enterprises, said the level might be allowed to reach 25 per cent in the case of radio broadcasting, subject to ministerial approval.

Mr Prebble also said that the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand (BCNZ) would be restructured. From April next year, it will become two state-owned enterprises — one for television and one for radio. The moves are likely to open the way for more television and radio stations.

Mr Prebble said the state would remain involved in television and radio. Competition would improve the performance of public broadcasting, he added.

On cross-media ownership, Mr Prebble said all significant broadcasting mergers would be subject to the same scrutiny applied to newspapers by the Commerce Commission, the nation's corporate watchdog.

Noting that there was a shortage of English-language programmes worldwide, he said there was scope for state television to make considerably more New Zealand programmes for export sales.

Mr Prebble also said that the state radio's commercial section, which is a money-losing, could be viable. The commercial section needed to have the freedom to buy, sell

and franchise commercial radio stations.

The present maximum allowable level of foreign ownership in broadcasting is five per cent, but there is no overseas investment in either state television or radio.

Although Television New Zealand (TVNZ) and Radio New Zealand (RNZ) are fully government-owned, there is some foreign investment in a small number of private radio stations.

TVNZ operates the country's two national television stations and faces competition for the first time next year when a private regional network is scheduled.

RNZ has two national non-commercial stations, and runs 32 of the 53 commercial stations in the country.

Verson wins US lawsuit

By Martin Waller

Verson International Group, the former Bronx Engineering Holdings, has won a significant lawsuit in the United States over its right to use the coil-processing technology owned by Allied Products Corporation, a US company.

The federal district court of Chicago has awarded Verson an injunction against Allied, paying the way for actions for damages both in the US courts and in Europe.

The dispute arises out of Allied's acquisition of Verson Alsteel Press, the former Verson parent, almost two years ago, the London-quoted company's access to technology and its exclusive right to use this outside the US and Canada.

The court ordered Allied to deliver the necessary technology to allow Verson to enter the high-speed coil processing equipment market. This complements the heavier products made by Bronx, into which Verson reversed in 1986.



Going for growth: Anthony Hawser of the Reject Shop

Reject Shop expands

The Reject Shop, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in June and is capitalized at £14 million, will soon be opening its largest store.

The company, whose managing director is Mr Anthony Hawser, agreed to take a new 20-year lease on a former

Improving Peek hits £2.4m at half-time

By Colin Campbell

Peek, the fast-growing electronics and technology group headed by Mr Kenneth Maud, has reported interim profits and shown a strong balance sheet which clearly demonstrates its transformation.

With the benefit of various US and British acquisitions, and helped by further growth from its organic activities, pretax profits for the six months to end-June turned out at £2.4 million on a £15.1 million turnover, compared with profits of £869,000 on a £5.2 million turnover previously.

Net earnings a share have doubled from 0.6p to 1.2p.

Peek is paying its first interim dividend — 0.3p a share.

In all of 1987 the dividend was 0.3p a share. When Peek acquired Dubliner in June this year, it forecast a full-year dividend of 1p share, a target which now looks likely to be beaten.

The group shows cash balances totalling £27 million. The board said this makes it well placed to exploit the various opportunities in its specialized and expanding fields of industrial automation, instrumentation and computers.

The shares rose by 1p to 48p, at which level Peek has a market capitalization of £134.7 million.

Fergabrook rights and acquisition

By Wolfgang Münch

Fergabrook, the USM-quoted distributor of toys and consumer products, is making a further acquisition despite a disappointing first half to June, when the company slumped £2.5 million into the red on a turnover of £5 million.

Fergabrook yesterday announced the purchase of Relaxstone, a holding company which owns Harlestone, a football manufacturer, in a share deal worth £2.4 million. Fergabrook also announced a rights issue to raise £2.6 million.

Mr Philip Harrison, Harlestone's chairman, and Mr Nicholas Condon, the finance

Volvo profits dip 11% at half-way

Gothenburg (Reuters) — Volvo reported an 11 per cent drop in net profits for the first-half of 1988, slightly better than most analysts were predicting.

After a 32 per cent fall in first-quarter profits, blamed largely on a three-week strike in January, Volvo's second-quarter profits rose to NKr2.44 billion (£209.26 million) from NKr2.28 billion. This buoyed half-year profits to NKr3.80 billion, compared with the most optimistic analysts' estimates of NKr3.7 billion.

"The greatest satisfaction is with our truck business, which has developed very strongly," said Mr Gunnar Johansson, Volvo managing director. Mr Johansson said lorry sales had

Raise your glass to investment

If you are nursing burned fingers from the stock market, let me tell you where you went wrong. You should have been investing in claret, all along.

According to a chartered accountant Alan Rayne, the nephew of property tycoon Max Rayne and managing director of Magnum Fine Wines which advises more than 150 clients on almost £1 million-worth of wine investment portfolios, the price of vintage Bordeaux has outperformed the FT-30 Share Index both at the peak of the bull market and since the October crash. Using as his starting point the "Bordeaux Index" monitored by *Decanter* magazine, which charts the prices realised at sales of classified growth wines throughout the vintage, he has done a few sums to equate it to the FT-30 Index. Giving the stock market index a base of 100 in 1978 — which is when the Bordeaux Index was launched — Rayne's graphs show that the FT-30 reached a peak of 373.6 last summer, while the BI was standing at 447.1. Then along came the crash and the FT-30 is now equivalent to 305.6. But the BI has gone from strength to strength. Last night it was standing at 505.18. "Fine wine increases in value by at least 15 per cent a year which means that if you lay down say, 30 cases, over a five-year period, you can sell half — for free," says Rayne.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Onward and upward

Rosalind Hill is a much sought-after lady. Everyone she works with seems to want to offer her a job. The 33-year-old accountancy wizard was first enticed away from the safety of Ernst & Young's corporate finance department last year to be seconded to the Schroder merchant bank. She apparently impressed the powers that be at the bank when she worked alongside them on

Doctor in the market

Little did Mrs Thatcher know what she was starting when she floated British Telecom. A casualty doctor at Harlepool General Hospital made that share his first stock market investment and followed suit with every subsequent privatization, giving him a portfolio now worth about £9,000. And his stock market experiences now look set to transform his life, for Dr Abhay More, aged 37, is the brains behind *The Stock Exchange Game*, a board game on sale in the Stock Exchange shop and going into WH Smith stores this week. More knew the game was a sure-fire success when other casualty staff unit were clamouring to play it. "It started as a game I played by myself, wishing I had more shares than I really did," he says. "I pretended that I had £10,000 to invest and 'made' 35 per cent in a year. I started playing it with my friends in the hospital, which helped me iron out the rules." More, who travels to London on the night bus to promote his game, has already sold almost 2,000. "But I'm not into profit yet," he says. "Yet," being the operative word, I'm sure.

Vintage year

The stock market crash may have dented the enthusiasm for champagne among Wall Streeters, but not so in London. According to figures from the Champagne Bureau, Britain is still the biggest export market for bubbly. In the first half of this year, 8.7

million bottles were drunk, a 12 per cent increase on last year. And that's more than the whole of the US — where consumption fell by 25 per cent to a mere 5.1 million bottles.

Figuring it out

It is good to know that great minds still think alike. Top economists polled by the newsletter *Blue Chip Economic Indicators* predict that the growth of the US economy will slow — in part because of higher interest rates. Most of *Blue Chip*'s 51 economists are going for 2.8 per cent growth this quarter and 5 per cent inflation by the end of the year. Norman Robertson at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh is among those who expect a 6 per cent inflation rate come December. But he sees "absolutely no signs of anything much higher than that. Certainly not double digits."



Carol Leonard

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from page 14

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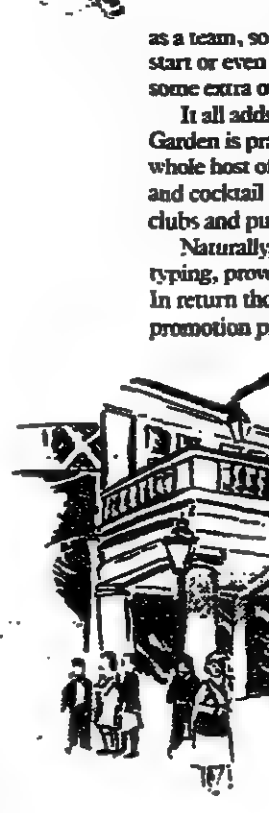
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Continued on page 28

MEDIA & MARKETING

Let the viewers vote with their switches

My television is confused. Only a short time ago it seemed to believe that the Ayatollah Khomeini was a bitter, relentless warmonger, but now when I turn it on it seems to be telling me that he and all Iranians have become devout men of peace. The snarls have disappeared, to be replaced by smiles and handshakes whenever a TV camera appears in the neighbourhood. I've adjusted the colour tint and the horizontal hold, but that doesn't seem to help. The Ayatollah only turns pink. I seem to be viewing a Middle Eastern version of Alice's adventures *Through The Looking-Glass*, where everything has been turned back to front. Fanatical warriors now talk of nothing but peace. The users of chemical weapons denounce other users in ringing tones. The godfathers of the Lebanese kidnap-and-murder squads talk gently of their concern for the hostages.

Having run out of money for tanks, mortars and ammunition, the Iranians seem to have turned to one of the cheapest yet most effective weapons available to them — television.

Television news today moulds and twists perceptions and opinions to a degree which is difficult to measure, but which is nevertheless immense. Ask any terrorist. The IRA have recently switched their tactics to Britain. One body on the mainland, they say, is worth 10 in Northern Ireland because it is guaranteed greater media coverage.

Yet the use of television news for overtly political ends is not perhaps the greatest problem to struggle with as we prepare for the broadcasting revolution. At least the terrorists' dependence on publicity is well documented. Can we continue to be relaxed about the way television directs and potentially distorts our social consciences and values?

Ethiopian famine is not a new phenomenon. Yet combined with television footage, it gave an irresistible twist to our collective social conscience which resulted in Band Aid

OPINION

Michael Dobbs

and St Bob. Other charities suffered by comparison through their inability to provide equally compelling pictures. Is charity in future to depend on the photogenic qualities rather than the intrinsic merits of the recipients?

TV can incite less charitable emotions. Most people would accept that news coverage of football and inner city riots helps spark off copycat violence. A televised Hungerford brought about instant changes in the gun law which almost certainly would not have happened without the impact of TV.

And with the creation of *Anger-ridden*, 24-hour global financial markets, the sight of panic rippling through Far Eastern stock exchanges is certain to cause a knock-on effect in Europe, which is transmitted to the United States and then on to the Far East... TV images tend to exaggerate all types of responses.

Even Mrs Thatcher is not immune. The unfortunate workers on the Piper Alpha oil rig were amongst the highest paid and presumably the best insured in the country, and Occidental Oil was quick to emphasise there would be generous compensation — a measure of comfort not normally available to victims of such a tragedy. Yet the accident happened in front of the television cameras, and the result was an outpouring of public sympathy and further funds, led by Mrs Thatcher with £1 million of taxpayers' money.

The question is not whether it was right to show sympathy for the victims, but whether that was the best use of £1 million of spare funds. Should it really have been taken priority over heart operations for chronically sick children and

all the rest? Will all accident victims get such treatment?

Television news is about to undergo a revolution which will have an unknown and as yet largely unquestioned impact. With five and possibly six terrestrial channels, the increasing commercialization of ITN/BBC and the proliferation of independent news producers, we are about to see much greater variety among TV news programmes operating in an increasingly deregulated environment. In the press world, this has given rise to the "gutter" press and the tit-and-bums approach to news. If this happens on TV, as seems likely, what then of our social consciences, let alone our politics? Will we find ourselves giving generously to the cause of fallen Page Three boobies rather than Help the Aged? Will the BBC finally become a subsidiary of the ANC?

The Broadcasting White Paper meandering its way through the Government machine seems unlikely to confront these issues. In the meantime, I read that the Labour Party has plans to put its own programmes on the new TV outlets, which presumably means Neil Kinnock kissing more babies to the tune of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy".

We are about to enter an era of uncertainty in TV news. But that shouldn't encourage Douglas Hurd to increase it by further delaying the White Paper. He knows that heavy-handed bureaucratic guidelines are not a solution to maintaining standards. Since he is willing to trust the common sense of the people every four or five years at election time, he should trust it every night to choose between the news and views of a host of new TV outlets. It may not be perfect or guarantee balance, but then nor do elections. And after all, ordinary people have a better record of seeing through the pink ayatollahs than most politicians.

The author is a director of *Satchel & Satchel* and was formerly *Chief of Staff* at *Conservative Central Office*.

Leaks that move prices

The manipulation of share prices by City PR firms is coming, belatedly some experts think, under Stock Exchange scrutiny

The Friday night run has become the Friday evening phone call — a casualty of the dispersal of Fleet Street. But the intention is the same. It is to get company information into the Sunday newspapers — information which is price-sensitive and therefore likely to move stock markets. As such it is illegal.

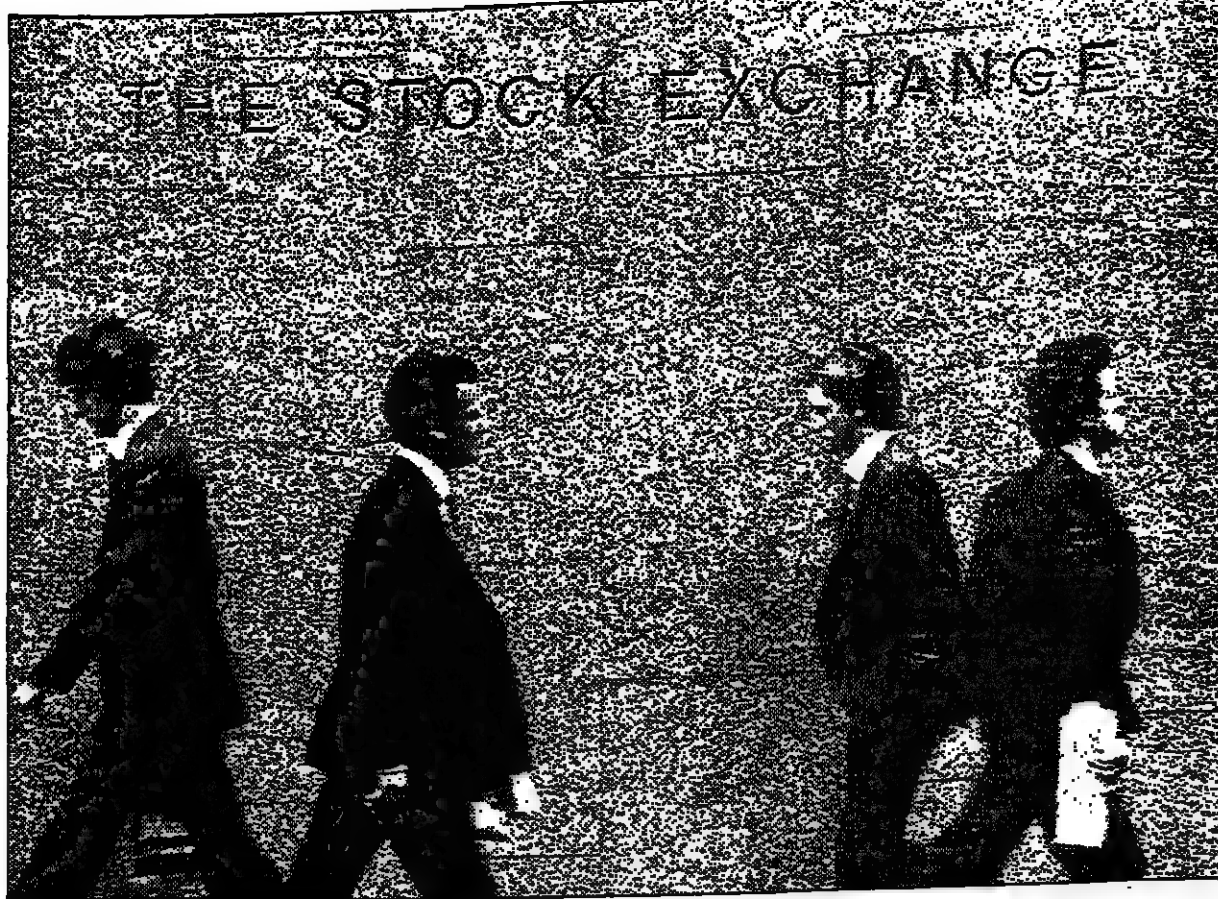
But the authorities, including the Stock Exchange, take little action. That is a scandal, says Peter Gummer, chairman of the Shandwick public relations group. "There are plenty of cowboys around and it is absolutely vital that there should be some form of regulation."

Time was, pre-Wapping, when a thrusting young city PR executive could call on three or more City editors — all within a radius of a few hundred yards. He would be unlucky if his news, hot from the boardrooms of selected clients, did not appear in one or other of the Sundays.

Now the PR man peddles his tips over the telephone. According to an experienced City editor, "They come on and say, 'I've got some wonderful news about XYZ company. Did you know they are about to do a deal with so and so?' Often it is not about companies at all. It's about arbitrageurs and speculators. Newspapers are being taken for a ride. Speculators are taking positions and trying to drum up support through the media."

Ian Raitt, who runs a medium-sized PR firm, Raitt Orr Associates, says, "This type of activity exists, but it is only one or two firms which do it on a regular basis. What happens is that a company wants to get its share price up in order to ward off predators. It calls in its PR firm to talk up the price. Or it may want to acquire another company. It is paying in part or in full with its own paper (shares). Again it needs the price up."

Such a bald account of the process suggests City editors are dumb. That is not true. But they are human. As a result of Fleet Street's dispersal they need PR input more than ever. That means good working relationships with financial PR firms. It does not take too subtle a PR man to insert a



Fair exchange: The surveillance department is reliably reported to be looking into abuses of price-sensitive material

'There are plenty of cowboys around and it is vital there is some form of regulation'

piece of "price-sensitive" information into some more mundane puffery.

The words "price-sensitive" are banded about wherever financial PR is discussed and as Susan Shaar, the Prudential group's press manager and chairman of the City and Financial Group of the Institute of Public Relations (IPR), points out, no one seems to know what they mean. "It is a grey area as to what is price-sensitive."

Technically, price-sensitive means anything which moves a share price on the Stock Exchange. One of a company's Continuing Obligations, made when its shares are listed, is to inform the exchange, before any third party, of price-sensitive information. If a company fails to abide by these Continuing Obligations, its shares can be unilaterally suspended by the exchange. But the last time that happened was four years ago.

On the Friday night run, the more

price-sensitive the information, the better. PR firms have access to company results, for example, well in advance of their announcement. When these details appear in Sunday newspapers there can be little comeback. Journalists are discreet. They protect and do not disclose their sources.

The Stock Exchange surveillance department is reliably reported to be looking into abuses of price-sensitive material by PR firms. The exchange itself refuses to confirm or deny this, but, given the difficulty of proof and the department's recent pressing need to investigate other, apparently more important financial intermediaries, sanctions against PR firms seem unlikely.

Shandwick's Peter Gummer thinks his profession should be regulated in the same way as stockbrokers. He says that when he first became concerned

about abuses in the industry four years ago, he proposed this should be done by the IPR or the Public Relations Consultants Association. But there was little response. Now he thinks the Stock Exchange should regulate both PR companies and their executives.

"A small company often only needs financial public relations when it is in trouble; when, for example, it finds itself on the wrong end of a takeover bid," he says. "It then needs to be able to go to the Stock Exchange and get a list of registered PR companies from which it can choose a reliable operator." He believes this list should be regularly policed, without the burden of proof that now exists. "There is not too much argument about which consultancies are involved in abuses."

Susan Shaar is sceptical about whether this would work. She says her experience is that "the leaky boats tend to come from other intermediaries, rather than through the PR channel". But she does believe the Stock Exchange should apply its existing sanctions more thoroughly. "Without sufficient prosecutions, the principles won't be seen to bite," she says.

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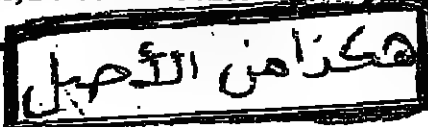
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Edward Arnold

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MEDIA & MARKETING

هكنا من النحل

Putting mums in their place

The advertising world has always had trouble depicting young mothers. Carys Bowen-Jones reports on fresh attempts to get the image right



The Oxo stereotype: "Most women are married with children and they still bake cakes and polish the furniture"

The recent arrival of a consultancy specializing in advertising to women, the Female Advantage, was perhaps inevitable in an industry which is so regularly chastised for its inability to portray women in a way which they find relevant, appealing and persuasive. A few years ago, this vexed issue was a topic of keen interest inside and outside the business; lately, it seems to have become a fully-fledged obsession.

But the current preoccupation with the spending power of the so-called New and Post-Feminist Woman, and of the growing band of increasingly affluent women over 50, has rather obscured the fact that for many big advertisers, the most commercially important woman is the eternal "young mum".

"Young mum" is the prosaic title of a fat tome of statistics from Grey, the multinational ad agency, which attempts to shed some quantitative light on the delicate balance between the home, outside interests, personal relationships and work which seems to floor so many advertisers.

For years, the advertising industry has been accused of patronizing women in its assumption that they have nothing more important in their lives than washing and cleaning," says Scott Sherrard, creative development director at Grey. "In the last few years, there's been a conscious move away from that as advertisers have become convinced that women have more important things to do than being a mother. Our research seems to demonstrate that advertisers have almost gone too far in the other direction."

With the exception of the oft-quoted examples of the Oxo and Persil campaigns, there seems to be a danger that the traditional and discredited stereotype of the young mum glowing with ecstatic approval at the whiteness of her wash is being superseded by a new stereotype typified by the immaculate, emancipated and professional Renault 25 and Gold Blend females.

If, as the industry so often tells us,

advertising exists to reflect reality rather than to change it, its creators might do worse than to mirror some of the study's main findings.

Grey defines the modern young mum as aged between 25 and 34 — older than her 1970s counterpart as she works for longer and has children later. If young mums are important to marketers now, they are likely to become even more crucial as the population structure changes between now and the year

2000 — their ranks will swell from 3.9 million in 1985 to 4.5 million by 1995. Her relaxed attitude to credit, meanwhile, makes her increasingly important as a consumer of luxuries such as holidays, audio-visual equipment, toys, private education, eating out and gardening products.

Over the past 20 years, the changes in the make-up of the family have been legion, with first marriages lasting an average of 10 years and a third of all marriages

now being remarriages. Yet the family is still something to be aspired to, with 90 per cent of young people expecting to get married and have children, according to Grey. Much has been made of the demise of the nuclear family, yet nearly a third of all households still comprise two parents with dependent children, and most young mums live in one of them.

The point is echoed in a previous study on the housewife in the 1980s

by Anne Wickes, planning director of the DMB & B ad agency. She maintains: "The plain facts are that most women, most of the time, in most houses, are married with children and they still bake cakes and polish the furniture, wash the kitchen floor several times a week, cook meat and veg meals with a roast on Sunday, iron the tea towels and help the children with their homework. What is more, most of them take a pride in doing it well and if they have a paid job too, they fit it all in somehow."

Despite the fact that married women have been returning to work in droves since the 1950s, few mothers choose to go back to work before their children are five — about three quarters opt to stay at home and only 7 per cent go back to work full time, according to Grey's research. Nor does working radically alter the young mum's attitude to the balance between her job and her home and family. There is scant evidence to suggest that even those who work full time have rejected their traditional housewife roles — they still do 80 per cent of the washing and ironing and 60 per cent of the cleaning and cooking, and the vast majority (80 per cent) say they are quite happy with the arrangement.

Some 75 per cent feel that motherhood is undervalued and the biggest problem for the full-time workers is guilt about short-changing their families. "Housewives do not in the least mind being shown as a housewife," stresses Wickes in her study. "That is what they are and if the product being advertised will help her to get something done better or more easily, they are very interested in being told about it" — providing, she adds, they are not patronized or portrayed as a drudge.

As Sherrard argues, advertisers have perhaps become excessively preoccupied with changing the role in which they depict her, rather than with the tone of voice which they use to talk to her.

on such items as adequate insurance. It stipulates that journalists should have a right to refuse requests to enter crisis areas.

The federation has established a database on working conditions in potentially dangerous countries. Drawing on work by the International Press Institute, it has also drawn up a list of guidelines for journalists working abroad. The advice includes:

- Never carry a gun or other weapon.
- Be careful about using camera flashes, as they can be mistaken for gunfire.
- Never wash your car. Unwashed cars are easier detected on an unwashed car.
- Never wear seat belts when driving in a war zone: you may have to jump from your car if you come under fire.
- Do not carry things which could lay you open charges that you are a spy, such as binoculars or equipment with antennae.
- Never wear olive green, or anything which makes you look like a soldier.

Michael Duncan

Under fire

For foreign correspondents in hot spots safety, like charity, begins at home

who heads the IFJ's working party on the Safety of Journalists, says that the blame often lies in a correspondent's office. "Too often journalists are badly prepared for their assignments. There's a hot spot. Someone who does not know about the country is sent

there. He arrives at the airport and has no idea to whom he can reliably talk."

The IFJ has started a campaign using the slogan "Every Dangerous Mission Begins At Home". This provides foreign correspondents and their employers with a model agree-

BYLINES
Northern colour

The rash of new colour supplements has spread north of the border. Next Sunday both D.C. Thomson's 1.4 million circulation *Sunday Post* and Mirror Group's 890,000 circulation *Sunday Mail* will have the first edition of a monthly magazine. The *Post* is offering Sunday breakfast with Barry McGuigan and a feature on Daley Thompson, the *Mail* will have a cover feature on Liz McCulligan, the Olympic hopeful from the *Post*'s home city of Dundee.

But much of the *Mail*'s magazine will be identical to the *Sunday Mirror*'s, and *Post* editor Bill Anderson accuses the Mirror Group of foisting a last-minute spoiler on to the *Mail*. "This is not a panic reaction," retorts *Mail* editor Noel Young. "We always plan well in advance."

Over and out

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's engineering division has emerged blinking into the cold light of commercial day, though not soon enough to prevent the departure of several senior staff, including deputy director Chris Daubney (newly-appointed chief engineer at Channel 4) and principal quality control engineer Chris Hibbert (joining Capital Radio's satellite radio venture SNA). The division, which some would like to see "privatized", is fighting back, and will for the first time be touting its services as a supplier of transmission facilities to the coming generation of new radio stations at a radio exhibition in London this weekend.

Shroud scoop

The academic as decoy: the *Evening Standard* had an unlikely scoop last week when it ran a piece by Dr Richard Luckett of Magdalen College, Cambridge, declaring that researchers at Oxford had shown the Turin Shroud was a fake dating from around 1350. But why should a Cambridge don whose specialities are English literature and 17th-century music know about radiocarbon dating work on the Turin Shroud at Oxford anyway? The answer seems to be that he didn't, until the *Standard*'s Christopher Hudson, knowing of Luckett's purely amateur interest in the shroud, tipped him off and commissioned the piece. "I got the information from quite another source," Hudson admitted this week.

Sky-high prices

The BBC and ITV may have to pay more for American TV programmes as well as foot-

ball coverage, thanks to competition from new satellite television channels to buy up the best product. British Satellite Broadcasting in particular is reported to be paying up to \$40,000 (£23,500 an hour, considerably more than the ITV average, for highly-prized programmes although it is also buying cheaper material. ITV programme buyer Barry Wood says he expects the Americans to be asking higher prices when the BBC and ITV make their annual trip to Hollywood this autumn.

Briefing . . .

A further attempt is to be made to launch newspaper street vending machines in Britain. Birmingham's *Daily News* has installed a batch of the dispensers on some of the city's busier pavements, charging readers who don't have the paper delivered free at home 12p per copy. Previous experiments with the machines have not been successful. . . . Former BBC director-general Alasdair Milne is going back to programme-making as a director of a new independent television production company, ABU, formed to make Gaelic-language programmes. . . . The 270-member Design Business Group is launching yet another set of design awards. The group says prizes in the Design Effectiveness Awards will be awarded on the basis of commercial success, not just aesthetic merit. . . . The BBC External Services (which everyone refers to as the BBC World Service) announce a change of name today; they will be known as the BBC World Service.

Nick Higham

Edward Arnold

THE EDUCATIONAL, ACADEMIC AND MEDICAL PUBLISHING DIVISION OF HODDER & STOUGHTON require an EDITOR

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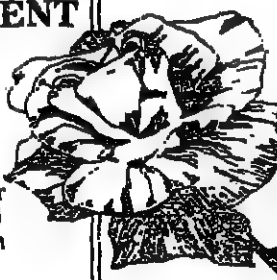
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Continued on next page

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued
from page 25Maine-Tucker
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property CorrespondentThe high cost of being
by the old mill stream

I might be thought that there had been enough rain this year to make people sick and tired of the sight of water round their houses, but that is not so. The attraction of a home by water — or on the water — remains strong, and as a general guide it will cost about 20 per cent more than its land-locked equivalent.

A further indication of the strong demand for waterside properties is the number which are sold at auction. Auctions do not suit all properties, but for an unusual

property or one where there is a perceived demand, and a well-tested means of finding the market value and maximizing it.

A recent example is Whitewater House at Hook in Hampshire, a listed mill house in eight acres which went to auction through Lane Fox with a guide price of £650,000. It sold for just over £1 million. A month ago, Sea Mills Farm near Ilminster, Somerset, was sold at auction on behalf of the county council. The listed

farmhouse, cottage and water mill, in 15 acres, was knocked down by Jackson-Stops & Staff for £422,500, well over the reserve.

The appeal of waterside property is country-wide. Jackson-Stops & Staff's York and Darlington offices each has one to offer, and the company expects considerable interest. Burton House at Masham near Ripon has 600 yds of fishing on the river Ure, and eight acres of paddock and stabling, which together with several local inns serving the town's famous brew 'Theakston's 'Old Peculiar', combine to make it every sporting man's dream, the agents explain.

tury house, with nearly 12 acres of grounds and a staff cottage, is to be auctioned later this month and is expected to fetch more than £350,000. The agents say that demand for the best period houses in the county has far outstripped supply, with strong influence from Southern buyers, and prices have risen between 20 per cent and 50 per cent this year.

Jackson-Stops & Staff is also selling the Old Cornmill at Hunsingore, near York and Harrogate. Converted from the mill, the five-bedroom house retains its original mill wheel and race, together with the immense oak timbers in many of the rooms. It has a 100 yd frontage to the river Nidd with single-bank fish-

ing rights, and there is a barn suitable for conversion to a granny or holiday flat. The asking price is over £275,000.

Shillbrook Manor in Black Bourton, 18 miles west of Oxford, on the edge of the Cotswolds, is a group of eight homes which have been converted by Cotswold Counties Developments from a watermill, barns and a country manor.

Not all have a waterfront, but two — the Waterside and the Old Watermill — directly overlook Shillbrook stream. The latter retains the original water wheel and has five bedrooms and a balcony terrace, while the Waterside has four bedrooms, with all the main rooms giving fine views over the gardens, and there is a running stream below. The conversions cost from £230,000 through Bigwood's Stratford-upon-Avon office and Lane Fox's Cirencester office.

Christopher Ironmonger of Bigwood says that in addition to their delightful setting, the Shillbrook Manor conversions have been carefully renovated, wherever possible keeping traditional features such as the water wheel.

On a grander scale is Hazlehurst Farm at Titchhurst, near Wadhurst, East Sussex. This is a residential farm of about 100 acres in a breathtaking position, being an entire peninsula on the 70-



Heytesbury Mill, on the river Wylde, near Warmminster, is on the market at £300,000

acre Bowl Water on the Sussex/Kent borders, 12 miles from Tunbridge Wells. The reservoir offers trout fishing, sailing, windsurfing and birdwatching.

The main farmhouse, dating from the 15th century, is a traditional Sussex-style, tile-hung property, with four bedrooms, four reception rooms, and a two-bedroom annexe. There are also a three-bedroom converted out-house and a pair of brick-built cottages, and the property, as a whole or in four lots, is being sold by Strutt & Parker's Lewes office with a guide price of £900,000.

A waiting renovation and conversion is Heytesbury Mill, a beautifully situated mill farmhouse and mill on the banks of the river Wylde at Heytesbury, near Warmminster, Wiltshire. The farmhouse, partly dating back to the 15th century, is of brick with tiled roofs, looking across the river to

the mill pool and the meadows beyond. It has three reception rooms, a study, and three bedrooms, and needs renovation.

The mill, a four-storey brick building, has planning permission and listed building consent for conversion, together with the granary and the cart shed, which could be converted into single dwellings. Humberts' Blandford office is giving a guide price of £300,000 for the whole (there are five lots) and believes the property offers a rare opportunity for major development. It is for sale by auction next month.

Another unusual property — offered by auction not surprisingly — is the Boat House, Ferry House, at Shillingford, Oxfordshire, a late Victorian boathouse on the banks of the Thames. The agent, Adkins of Wallingford, believes it is one of the last riverside properties in this part of Oxfordshire capable of development, and says it has the

potential for a fine riverside home. It stands in three quarters of an acre, with 250 ft of river frontage, and carries a guide price of £200,000 to £250,000.

If a boat house will not satisfy, try a house boat. Winkworth's Hampton Wick office has two for sale on Taggs Island, a short way downstream from Hampton Court. They are moored to the island, have 'uninterrupted views of the river' and large, secluded gardens on the island. Each has a large reception room and two or three bedrooms, and the prices are £180,000 and £185,000.

The agents also have for sale Weir House, built around 1910, overlooking the island and weir. Standing between the river and Bushy Park, the house has two reception rooms, two studies and three bedrooms, with the garden running down to the river, with a mooring. The price is £348,000.



The Old Cornmill, Hunsingore, near York, a conversion for which £275,000 is being asked

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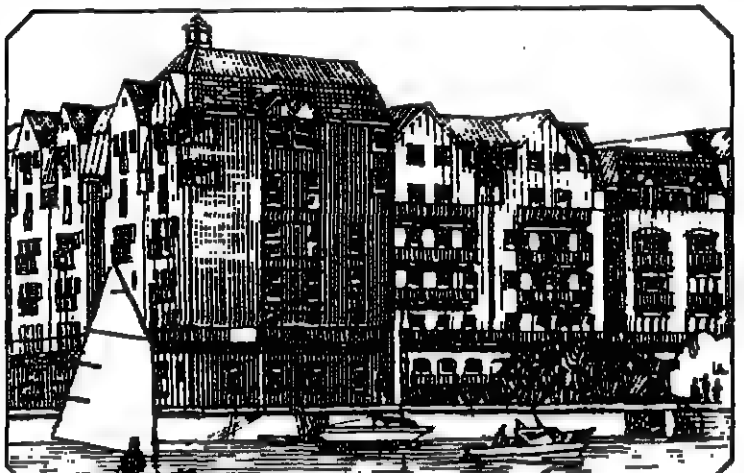
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RACING: O'BRIEN CHASING SECOND VERNONS SPRINT SUCCESS

Glencroft can complete quickfire sprint double

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Following that decisive victory at Goodwood last Saturday, Glencroft appears to have a good chance of adding the Lawrence Batley Handicap at York today to his steadily lengthening list of gains.

He is my nap although, normally, I would hesitate before nominating a horse with a 10lb penalty who ran only four days ago.

However, Glencroft is trained by David Chapman, who clearly has a knack with this sort of horse as Chaplin Club has already demonstrated so ably this season.

As far as the penalty is concerned, Glencroft will still be able to meet Golden Ancona on 4lb better terms compared with their running in the Great St Wilfred Handicap at Ripon 11 days ago.

On that occasion, Golden Ancona had Glencroft less than two lengths back in third place, but Glencroft looked much more positive at Goodwood, and can take his revenge.

The form of that Ripon race has been boosted twice since first by Glencroft himself on the Sussex course, where he was never headed, and again at Newcastle on Monday when the runner-up Softly Spoken also triumphed in some style.

At Goodwood, Glencroft

had Penitimation over five lengths back in fifth place. Over today's six furlongs I do not fancy Guy Harwood's three-year-old reversing the placings as it was over further that he beat Defence Policy at Kempton.

Obviously, Golden Ancona must be given a Masarah, especially if rain arrives in time to ease the going. But with the Chapman horses in almost irrepressible form, Glencroft gets my vote.

Otherwise, it should pay to follow Walter Swinburn riding Superpower (2.0) and Samatrana (3.0).

Deputising for the injured Tony Ives, he has already profited by winning the valuable Heinz '57 Stakes at Phoenix Park on Superpower.

Now he looks like collecting the Best Buy Products Stakes on the same horse who is so typical of the numerous fast two-year-olds that Bill O'Gorman has exploited with such success over the years.

On paper, Superpower appears to have plenty in hand today.

Samatrana, my selection for the Batley Cash And Carry Handicap, is a lightly-raced filly, who clearly has no end of stamina judged on the way that she won at Yarmouth last time.

By all accounts, she has



Sapience (left) masters Leading Bird close home in the Rubbing House Stakes at Epsom (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

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Miracle Of Love memorable first Epsom ride for Fallon

By George Rae

A good horse and the confidence

of a rider in form is a formidable

combination, one which was

perfectly illustrated by Miracle

Of Love and Kieran Fallon at

Epsom yesterday.

Fallon, on the crest of a wave

following a 1-3-5-1 record at

Newcastle on Saturday, gave an

accomplished display on the

Guy Harwood-trained top

weight, bringing her home three

lengths clear from fellow joint

favourite Yamah in the Steve

Donoghue Apprentice

Handicap at Belmont.

Fallon, aged 23 and apprenticed

to Jimmy Fitzgerald at

Malton, was paying his first visit

to Epsom, and although he

arrived too late to walk the

course he talked the race

through with Harwood and

jockey Willie Ryan.

"It's easy when you're as

good as that," Fallon said. "She

did it all herself."

Although Fallon, from Co

Clare, will have to work a lot

harder for some of his successes

than he did yesterday, he can

regard his triumph over the full

Derby course and distance with

some satisfaction. He has now

ridden 21 winners this term, the

same number as the whole of

last season in Ireland, and he is

building a growing reputation.

"I spent four years with Kevin

Prendergast but there really

aren't enough top jobs in Ire-

land," he said.

Harwood, who ran the filly

because "I've a lot of 11c

horses and it's a question of

trying to sort out races for

them," is pursuing a trans-

atlantic campaign with the for-

mer Derby horse Undercut.

"He runs in the Manhattan

Handicap at Belmont,"

Harwood said, "and then the

Man O'War Handicap at the

same track."

The Manhattan Handicap is

this Sunday, and the Man

O'War on September 24. Pat

Eddery, who rode if Undercut is

allowed sufficient weight over-

Frenchman Jean-Luc Samyn

takes over.

Undercut is still trained by

Harwood for the two races, but

may remain permanently in the

United States.

However, Eddery's commit-

ment to the Khaled Abdulla-

owned Undercut may prevent

him from riding the disquali-

fied Addenbrook's Hospital in

Cambridge for another ten days

with an injury to his spleen.

the Phoenix Champion Stakes

in Ireland on the same day.

Fitzgerald saddled a winner

previously when Sapience pre-

vailed close home from Leading

Bird by half a length in the

Rubbing House Stakes. It was

the trainer's third winner from

as many runners at the Surrey

course.

Sapience was ridden by Wal-

ter Swinburn, who stood in for

Fallon. "We felt that a two-year-

old around here needed an

experienced jockey," Fitzgerald

explained. "But if we'd known it

would cut up to only four

runners Kieran would probably

have ridden."

The Ray Cochrane-ridden

favourite Banker Mason found

nothing in the closing stages and

faded to finish third.

However, Cochrane had ear-

lier been successful when Sea

Sage redeemed a reputation

tarnished by a dismal odds-on

defeat last time with a decisive

three lengths win in the

Cheshington Maiden Stakes.

The filly is trained by Luca

Cumani, whose wife Sara is

being detained in

Addenbrook's Hospital in

Cambridge for another ten days

with an injury to his spleen.

Delayed ban for Williams

Michael Williams, successful on

yesterday, was suspended from

September 3-11 inclusive by the

stewards for an offensive com-

mitment on the course 19 days ago.

Williams, who rode Home Or

Else, was backed yesterday.

He was guilty of

improper riding after striking

Festive prize on offer at Ascot

The Times offers a superb outing to the Festival of British Racing as the first prize in our competition today.

The Festival, at Ascot on Saturday, September 24, features six top-class races, including the Tote Festival Handicap, the King George Stakes, and the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, worth £250,000, for the mile championship of Europe.

We have joined with the Tote and King George to offer the winner of our competition two Grandstand tickets for the big day, a case of Krug champagne, £200 in Tote betting vouchers, and an overnight stay, with dinner, at the luxury Berys Hotel near the course.



For the runner-up there will be £100 in Tote betting vouchers, three magnum of Krug, and two Grandstand tickets; and for our next successful entrant, there will be £50 in Tote betting vouchers, a magnum of Krug, and two Grandstand tickets.

To enter, study the five questions below, complete the entry form with the answers and your name, address and telephone number, and send it to: Tote Racing Competition, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday, September 6. The prize-winners will be the senders of the first three correct entries drawn from all those received by the closing date.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who rode Miesque in last year's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes?
2. Which horse ran unplaced in last season's Tote Festival Handicap and then won at this year's Cheltenham Festival?
3. Who was the last filly to capture the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes?
4. Name the last horse to have won twice at one Royal Ascot meeting?
5. Who was the Princess Royal's winning ride in last year's Dresden Diamond Stakes?

ENTRY FORM

Name
Address
Telephone

ANSWERS

1. M. J. Tabor
 2. The Duke of Devonshire
 3. The Queen
 4. The Duke of Devonshire
 5. The Duke of Devonshire
- CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, the Tote and King George are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Harrow are saved by naive error

Harrow experienced mixed fortunes during their tour to Australia, with a party which included their colts (Michael Stevenson writes).

Harrow were well beaten by Downlands but managed an unlikely draw against Brisbane Boys College. The Brisbane skipper crossed our line wide out late in the match, Harrow's coach, Roger Utley, said. "All he had to do was touch down but he dummed two players to try to get round behind the posts and was tackled by the third and lost the ball."

RESULTS (Harrow first; in Western Australia Schools, 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th; 5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; 9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; 13th; 14th; 15th; 16th; 17th; 18th; 19th; 20th; 21st; 22nd; 23rd; 24th; 25th; 26th; 27th; 28th; 29th; 30th; 31st; 32nd; 33rd; 34th; 35th; 36th; 37th; 38th; 39th; 40th; 41st; 42nd; 43rd; 44th; 45th; 46th; 47th; 48th; 49th; 50th; 51st; 52nd; 53rd; 54th; 55th; 56th; 57th; 58th; 59th; 60th; 61st; 62nd; 63rd; 64th; 65th; 66th; 67th; 68th; 69th; 70th; 71st; 72nd; 73rd; 74th; 75th; 76th; 77th; 78th; 79th; 80th; 81st; 82nd; 83rd; 84th; 85th; 86th; 87th; 88th; 89th; 90th; 91st; 92nd; 93rd; 94th; 95th; 96th; 97th; 98th; 99th; 100th; 101st; 102nd; 103rd; 104th; 105th; 106th; 107th; 108th; 109th; 110th; 111th; 112th; 113th; 114th; 115th; 116th; 117th; 118th; 119th; 120th; 121st; 122nd; 123rd; 124th; 125th; 126th; 127th; 128th; 129th; 130th; 131st; 132nd; 133rd; 134th; 135th; 136th; 137th; 138th; 139th; 140th; 141st; 142nd; 143rd; 144th; 145th; 146th; 147th; 148th; 149th; 150th; 151st; 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A day in the life on an England cricket captain



Action man: Gooch opened the day at the crease for England, bade a hasty retreat from Lord's once the formalities of England's win were over, and went on to join his Essex county captain, Fletcher, at the Oval

Summer slips by as focus turns to an Indian winter

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S: England beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets. The end of England's long, barren, run was duly achieved yesterday, but even this apparent formality was not discharged without a touch of farce, somehow symptomatic of this painfully muddled summer.

As the Lord's clocks reached 1.00 p.m., England needed just one run for victory. The umpires lifted the balls and the players trooped off for lunch. It was the classic example of cricket eccentricity; the sort of thing which has Americans insisting that this is a game played by the insane for the benefit of insomniacs. It did not suit England's plans at all.

Not only were dark clouds gathering over the pavilion, hinting at the ultimate embarrassment, but Graham Gooch, the England captain, was restlessly pacing the balcony, anxious to have this business settled so that he could make his cross-capital dash to strengthen Essex's championship challenge at the Oval.

To prolong the fiasco, the win was completed within four balls of the resumption, by courtesy of a misfield, but the presentation ceremony

was then held up for several minutes in order that BBC television could complete the daily transmission of the soap opera, *Neighbours*, before returning live to Lord's. Representatives of the sponsors, Cornhill, shuffled in frustration and Gooch's brow was by now deeply furrowed.

Inevitably, Gooch was the central character of the day. He had woken to the sort of headlines he must inwardly have expected, his name once again a political plaything following his frank admission that South Africa had been his winter alternative to touring India.

It called for Peter May to support his man, to explain his reappointment as captain and to deflect the political propaganda. Sadly, on the day when England won their first Test match in 19, and their first at Lord's for five years, the chairman of selectors was absent, having taken up an invitation to attend the Scarborough festival.

To say he did not miss much is hardly the point. The ragged remnant of this Test match may not have been required viewing, but it is surely customary for the chairman to be on hand at such time, especially with a sen-

sitive captaincy appointment to protect and promote.

That England should labour to score the outstanding 89 runs was to the credit of Sri Lanka, whose bowling, like their batting, was more impressive than in the first innings. Once the skies became overcast, the ball swung appreciably and the talented Samarasekera made the most of it. He consistently swung the ball away from the right-handers and gave England a mild fright by taking two wickets in three balls.

After the openers had put on 73, Gooch was caught behind as he drove at an outswinger he might easily have left alone. Barnett survived a leg-before appeal first ball and was out to the next, pushing forward at one which left him late. When Lamb, having struck one sweet, straight drive, chipped a catch to mid-wicket, England needed the calm of Robinson to steer them home.

It was not a memorable match, but at least it provided a welcome win. Ranjan Madugalle, the Sri Lankan captain, said later that England had played "as if they were starved of being on top", and even Mickey Stewart allowed his optimistic front to drop so far as to say: "We haven't progressed as much this year as I had hoped and planned."

Stewart now feels the Indian tour is a vital period of regrouping under Gooch. Few would disagree with that.

Clarke stays

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, yesterday fined Colin Clarke two weeks' wages after newspaper reports quoted the Northern Ireland international forward as saying that the club "lacked ambition". Clarke has made it clear that he wants to leave The Dell for a bigger club but Nicholl said that unless they received a substantial offer he would stay until his three-year contract ran out.

Double act by Gooch of concern to TCCB

The ethics of calling up a player from a Test match to play in a county match already in progress, are to come under the scrutiny of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), following the actions of Essex and Middlesex in commandeering Graham Gooch and John Emburey respectively from the Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday.

The TCCB are to look into the matter at their December meeting, although Alan Smith, the chief executive, said: "I would probably have done the same if I had been in the shoes of Essex captain Keith Fletcher. Gooch was taking a risk by agreeing to play. He could have broken a finger and Essex would have been forced to play with 10 men."

"Counties obviously want their best players available for their four-day games but this clash was unavoidable. It will be the same next year when Australia are here to play six Tests."

Smith discussed the situation for an hour yesterday morning with Tim Lamb, the TCCB cricket secretary. "It is not a perfect situation and we don't like it very much," Smith admitted. "But there is nothing to stop any county captain from taking this course of action." It seems likely a regulation will be introduced to prevent a repeat performance.

Gooch, the England captain, left Lord's at seven minutes past two, after collecting the £6,500 winner's cheque at the post-match presentation, to join the match against Surrey seven miles away across London at the Oval. It is a fixture which is vital to Essex's late championship challenge.

Essex had also considered naming Neil Foster, England's first bowler who was also playing at Lord's, but decided it was too much of a gamble to start with only nine men. Emburey left Lord's three minutes before Gooch to drive the 65 miles to Hove, where his county were playing Sussex. Graham Dilley, the England fast bowler, has informed the selectors of his availability for the tour of India.

Durie's energy sapped by hard-hitting rallies

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

They tried to start the United States championships a day earlier than usual. But on Monday rain restricted play to an hour and 20 minutes and only five matches were finished. So the tournament did not really get off the starting blocks until the traditional Tuesday.

Officials at the Association of Tennis Professionals, barred from premises evened by ATP members, held a press conference in a car park outside the main gate.

The purpose was to explain why the ATP may run its own circuit from 1990, a task it could handle competently and responsibly, unless the Men's Tennis Council is reorganized, with the International Tennis Federation stripped of voting rights.

For the moment, all that needs to be added is that this was presumably the first time that the ATP executive director, Hamilton Jordan, formerly President Carter's chief of staff, had conducted a press briefing in a car park.

Inside, Mats Wilander, who looks as likely as anyone to win the men's singles, completed a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 win over Greg Holmes, from Salt Lake City. That happened in the vast bowl of the main stadium. Out on court 21, Jo Durie, of Britain, was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by Susan Sloane, from Lexington, Kentucky, who is 10 years her junior.

Sloane, aged 17, is a fair-haired, strongly built baseline player, with a two-fisted backhand and so much energy that even the sight of her must have made Durie feel old. Sloane scuttled about like a rabbit, hit hard to a good length, and pinned Durie to the back of the court.

The day was fine and, for a change, the degree of humidity was merciful. The flowers,

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Results from Flushing Meadow

MEN'S FIRST ROUND: D. Cawth (AUS) bt L. Durie (GB), 6-0, 6-2, 6-2; M. Wilander (SWE) bt G. Holmes (USA), 6-2, 6-1, 6-4; J. Carlsson (SWE) bt S. Zvereva (URS), 6-0, 6-4, 6-4; A. Cornea (ROM) bt J. Sunde (ROM), 6-2, 6-2; A. Kriekow (URS) bt M. Schupers (NAM), 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; D. Pan (USA) bt E. Jelen (POL), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

WOMEN'S FIRST ROUND: Z. Gajdosova (CZE) bt N. Pietrangeli (ITA), 6-3, 6-4; A. Frazier (USA) bt O. Tsaregorodtseva (URS), 6-1, 7-5; G. Salerni (ARG) bt S. Fudek (ARG), 6-3, 6-2; M. Fernandez (URS) bt J. Byrne (AUS), 6-1, 6-3; S. Browne (USA) bt A. Kijimuta (JPN), 6-2, 6-1; P. Fries (USA) bt C. Cornet (FRA), 6-3, 6-1; S. Kuznetsov (URS) bt H. Laidon (USA), 7-5, 6-2; E. Reinisch (USA) bt N. Zvereva (URS), 4-6, 6-3; G. Fialova (CZE) bt M. Lindstrom (SWE), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; S. Sloane (USA) bt J. Durie (GB), 6-3, 6-2; S. Wasserman (ISR) bt S. Corbett (GB), 7-5, 6-3.

planted in May and carefully tended so that they bloom for the championships, looked a good deal perkier than they did on Monday.

But Flushing Meadow has no pretensions to pretentious and can be particularly awful when the wind blows from the south - which means that the aircraft taking off from La Guardia airport use runway 13 which is unlucky for the

tournament, because the aircraft pass over the courts with roars that tend to reach 165 decibels.

There has been talk of moving the championships, but that kite-flying proposal has served merely to remind the organizers that the tournament and the premises need a comprehensive overhaul.

There can be no arguing with the commercial success of the championships, which provide the US Tennis Association with 82 per cent of its income. The money comes from gate receipts, television fees, and sponsors, with smaller contributions from a proportion of the catering income and from radio fees.

Make what you will of the fact that 50 per cent of the tickets are bought by companies. When the championships were moved from Forest Hills to this public facility it was suggested that the game might thus be given more mass appeal. But it seems to be more exclusive than ever.

Natalya Zvereva, the runner-up for the French championship, was seeded to reach the quarter-finals here, but was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday by Kim Steinmetz, of St Louis, a qualifier.

Another qualifier, Johan Carlsson of Sweden, had a 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 win over Slobodan Zivonjovic, who had looked a threatening "floater" in Stefan Edberg's section of the draw.

Players seek revolution to gain control of destiny

From Richard Evans, New York

the PGA runs golf. It is not coincidental that Hamilton Jordan, the ATP executive director, recently hired Tim Smith, formerly deputy commissioner of the PGA, as a consultant. Smith's initial report on professional tennis declared that it is perceived as 'chaotic' in the eyes of the corporate marketing world.

Rumours of unrest have been circulating among the more politically minded players for some time now but a growing unity and awareness among the top stars in recent weeks has allowed the ATP to replace words with action. Not since the ATP Wimbledon boycott of 1973 have the players appeared so determined to take hold of their own destiny.

Over the weekend 100 players endorsed their Board's decision to give the MTC until 1990 to reorganize itself. If it does not, the implication is that the ATP will break away completely from the body that administers the professional tour, under the supervision of Marshall Hapner, and run its own circuit.

"As president of the ITF, Philippe Chatrier has done great things for the game," Brian Gottfried, the ATP president and former Wimbledon semi-finalist said. "But in the last few years we have seen the ITF do much as it pleases with the calendar, moving Davis Cup dates without consultation, taking players off the tour for the Olympics, irrespective of the needs of super series events, and trying to pretend that the Grand Slams and Davis Cup are the only things that matter."

"With the current MTC set-up where we have just three votes out of nine, we are incapable of doing what we feel is best for the future health of the worldwide game and our own members. It is not about money - I want to stress that. It is about controlling our own destiny and that includes disciplining our own players just as the PGA does on the golf tour. It can be done and I am convinced it must be done."

With the world waiting agog for the next session of violence - wherever it take place, Wembley Stadium or Dapper Dan's - I believe he is telling the truth. That jacket from Dapper Dan's speaks the truth.

But the world shows a strange nice-mindedness when it comes to selling soft drinks. "What if I got stabbed or shot?" Tyson demanded. "What if I became paralysed? They don't put no paraplegics in Pepsi commercials."

Tyson is a man of acuity, and is given to bursts of charm and humour. He is also a man of violence. I cannot believe that any professional boxer finds it easy to handle these contradictions. Tyson has never claimed to find it so: "Sometimes it's not easy being Mike Tyson," he said.

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Italy dig deep

Rome (AP) - Italy will send 263 athletes, 221 men and 42 women, to the Olympic Games, at a cost of \$42 million to train them. Another 190 officials, coaches, medical personnel and other staff will accompany the competitors.

Scot backing

The Girobank Scotland will again sponsor Scottish national badminton championship at Meadowbank from February 3 to 5 with £4,000.

Hearing date

Glenn McCrory, the British and Commonwealth cruiser-weight champion, is to have his contract dispute with Doug Bidwell, his manager, heard by the British Boxing Board on September 7.

Ban remains

Zurich (Reuters) - FIFA will not lift its ban on Iraq and Iran playing international football matches at home until a peace treaty is signed to end the eight-year war. In 1986 the warring Gulf nations were ordered to play their World Cup ties on neutral venues.

Butterfly float

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END COLUMN

Judging boxers by their jackets

Simon Barnes

New York

Mitch "Blood" Green has kept New York laughing this week with a series of interviews that emphasize all that is truly good and noble in boxing. "Tyson, Cicely Tyson, he's a sissy."

It was generally agreed that this was a bravura performance of the spaced-out ghetto idiot: it was the kind of Damon Runyon, Broadway-low life, came that New York loves with all the self-love it can muster - and that is considerable.

Green was the man involved in the bout of extra-curricular fisticuffs with the heavyweight champion of the world last week, you will recall. It was four in the morning, so, naturally, Tyson was going to visit his tailor, Dapper Dan.

This is the sort of Runyonesque detail that boxing-mad New York adores. The town is slapping itself on the back and asking itself: where else could you pick up a jacket at four on the morning? Especially a white leather jacket, especially a white leather jacket bearing the legend "Don't Believe the Hype?"

The myth of the man of violence

Boxing is a business that demands dual standards, split personalities. And Tyson more than any other boxer, sums up those contradictions. The essence of the contradiction is, of course, that boxing pretends to be a sport.

This involves the myth of the gentleman fighter, the gentle person with the fearsome fists, the man of violence who uses his awesome power only in the sacred confines of the ring of honour. The civilized savage, as it were.

That is how the worship of violence becomes acceptable. Violence becomes somehow charmingly colourful in the context of boxing. Tyson calls himself "the baddest dude on the planet", and has talked enchantingly of how he wished to punch an opponent on the nose and have the bone smash into his brain. Very colourful.

Tyson has acquired a great deal of respect for all this; and he is a truly awesome fighter. Tyson is a man of business, whose trade is violence. He is neither an entertainer nor a hypocrite.

It is hardly a contradiction that violence, and rumours of violence spill over into Tyson's real life. There was the incident last summer when he hit a parking-lot attendant. His wife's sister has called him a wife-beater. Now the scuffle with Green, and Green's gleeful exploitation of this, with the help of the equally gleeful media.

Advertisers cannot afford the risk

One New York ad-and-image man summed up: "If it was just an isolated case, it wouldn't matter. But a pattern is emerging. It makes advertisers very nervous. Their question is, what will be next? If you're an advertising agency that has to appeal to the whole country, you can't afford to take that risk."

It is America, or if you prefer, the world, that is the hypocrite here. It creates and revels in Tyson as a man of violence, and then has second thoughts about him when it comes to selling candy bars.

The world revels in the horror stories of Tyson's past, the probation for muggings and purse-snatching, and how he was saved from the ghetto, or jail, by boxing, by the socially-acceptable trade of violence.

But the world shows a strange nice-mindedness when it comes to selling soft drinks. "What if I got stabbed or shot?" Tyson demanded. "What if I became paralysed? They don't put no paraplegics in Pepsi commercials."

Tyson is a man of acuity, and is given to bursts of charm and humour. He is also a man of violence. I cannot believe that any professional boxer finds it easy to handle these contradictions. Tyson has never claimed to find it so: "Sometimes it's not easy being Mike Tyson," he said.

With the world waiting agog for the next session of violence - wherever it take place, Wembley Stadium or Dapper Dan's - I believe he is telling the truth. That jacket from Dapper Dan's speaks the truth.

Kennedy in a critical condition

Vivian Kennedy, the National Hunt jockey, was still critically ill in hospital yesterday after suffering severe head injury in a fall at Huntingdon Monday.

The 23-year-old is on a life support machine at Brooke's Hospital, having been taken from Huntingdon Hospital, in

James aid the grim, too way him

Cyclist to sue rival for assault over race crash

Brussels (Reuters) - Claude Criquelion, of Belgium, intends to sue Steve Bauer for assault after an incident which he claims deprived him of victory in the world cycling championships, his lawyer said yesterday.

Criquelion says he was brought down by the Canadian 50 meters from the finish of the professional road race, at Renaix, when he looked the most likely winner.

His lawyer, Orphale Crucke, said that Criquelion would lodge a complaint for assault at a court in Oudenaarde, near Ghent. He said Criquelion had the moral support of the Belgian Cycling Union, which had already asked the International Cycling Union to impose sanctions on Bauer.

The court will investigate the case and decide whether Criquelion can claim damages.

The crash happened as Bauer was leading a three-man sprint on an uphill stretch ahead of Criquelion, with Maurizio Fondriest, of Italy, in a seemingly hopeless position.

As Bauer faded and changed gear, Criquelion tried to slip past on the inside. But the Canadian suddenly veered to the right and blocked the Belgian's path with his elbow.

Criquelion was forced off the road and he hit a policeman, lost his balance and crashed. Bauer then seemed to lose his momentum and he hardly reacted when Fondriest passed him to win the title.

Bauer, who is based in Belgium, was disqualified from second place for dangerous riding. He needed a police escort to lead him away from a booing crowd, and the police guarded his house, in Gullegem, on Sunday night and Monday.

Criquelion said: "He trapped me. I could have got past him without any problem, but he pushed me with his elbow."

Eddy Merckx, the Belgian team coach, said: "The financial loss for Criquelion is enormous. He will also be seriously hurt mentally."

Brisbane applies

Sydney (AFP) - Brisbane, beaten by Barcelona in its attempt to stage the 1992 Olympics, yesterday lodged an official application for 1996 and Sydney and Melbourne are expected to follow suit today.

The Australian Olympic Federation will decide its candidate for the Olympic centenary on November 17 and the International Olympic Committee will decide the final venue in September 1990 in Tokyo. Sallyanne Atkinson, the Brisbane Lord Mayor, said the Queensland capital has facilities to stage the Games now after hosting the Commonwealth Games in 1982 and the present World Exposition.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Palmer: partners Edwards

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Italy dig deep

Rome (AP) - Italy will send 263 athletes, 221 men and 42 women, to the Olympic Games, at a cost of \$42 million to train them. Another 190 officials, coaches, medical personnel and other staff will accompany the competitors.

Scot backing

The Girobank Scotland will again sponsor Scottish national badminton championship at Meadowbank from February 3 to 5 with £4,000.

Hearing date

Glenn McCrory, the British and Commonwealth cruiser-weight champion, is to have his contract dispute with Doug Bidwell, his manager, heard by the British Boxing Board on September 7.

Ban remains

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